OFFICIAL

WWE MAGAZINE

2 FREE POSTERS

AJ LEE, CODY RHODES AND GOLDUST

INSIDE!

THE 2013 WWE MAGAZINE AWARDS

SUPERSTAR OF THE YEAR!

BIGGEST JERK!

GREATEST TAG TEAM!

THE BEST MATCH!

AND MORE!

★ ★ ★

DOLPH ZIGGLER

The Interview WWE Told Us Not To Print!

P.76

THE ROAD TO WRESTLEMANIA XXX STARTS NOW!

JOHN CENA

HIS FINAL RUN AS CHAMP?

KAITLYN

Her Salute To Stone Cold!

P.42

JANUARY 2014 USA $6.99

0 1>

0 09128 47481 6

WWE.COM/MAGAZINE

PLUS: DANIEL BRYAN ★ RANDY ORTON ★ THE SHIELD ★ THE WYATT FAMILY AND MORE!

ROYAL RUMBLE
LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW
SUNDAY JANUARY 26 8E/5P
#ROYALRUMBLE
WWE.COM WWE HD PG
TM & © 2013 WWE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
ORDER THROUGH YOUR PAY-PER-VIEW PROVIDER

CENAT

MAGAZINE

CONTENTS

JANUARY 2014

BRAWL

18 WHO WILL BE THE NEXT RUMBLE STAR?
Our picks for the future legends of the Royal Rumble.

20 SAVE THE DATE
We got an advanced look at Brie Bella and Daniel Bryan's WWE-themed wedding registry.

22 JERK OF THE MONTH
Curtis Axel is the perfect pick. Plus, Paul Heyman!

26 SUPERSTAR SCARS
Big E Langston reveals the story behind a gnarly gym injury.

27 ALTERNATE REALITIES
What if it were John Cena, and not "The Animal" Batista, who joined Evolution?

28 THE HURT LOCKER
"Real American" Antonio Cesaro emptied his suitcase for the WWE Universe. Yes, he uses Old Spice Matterhorn!

30 AJ LEE Q&A
Experience a year in the life of WWE's own Black Widow.

KNOWLEDGE

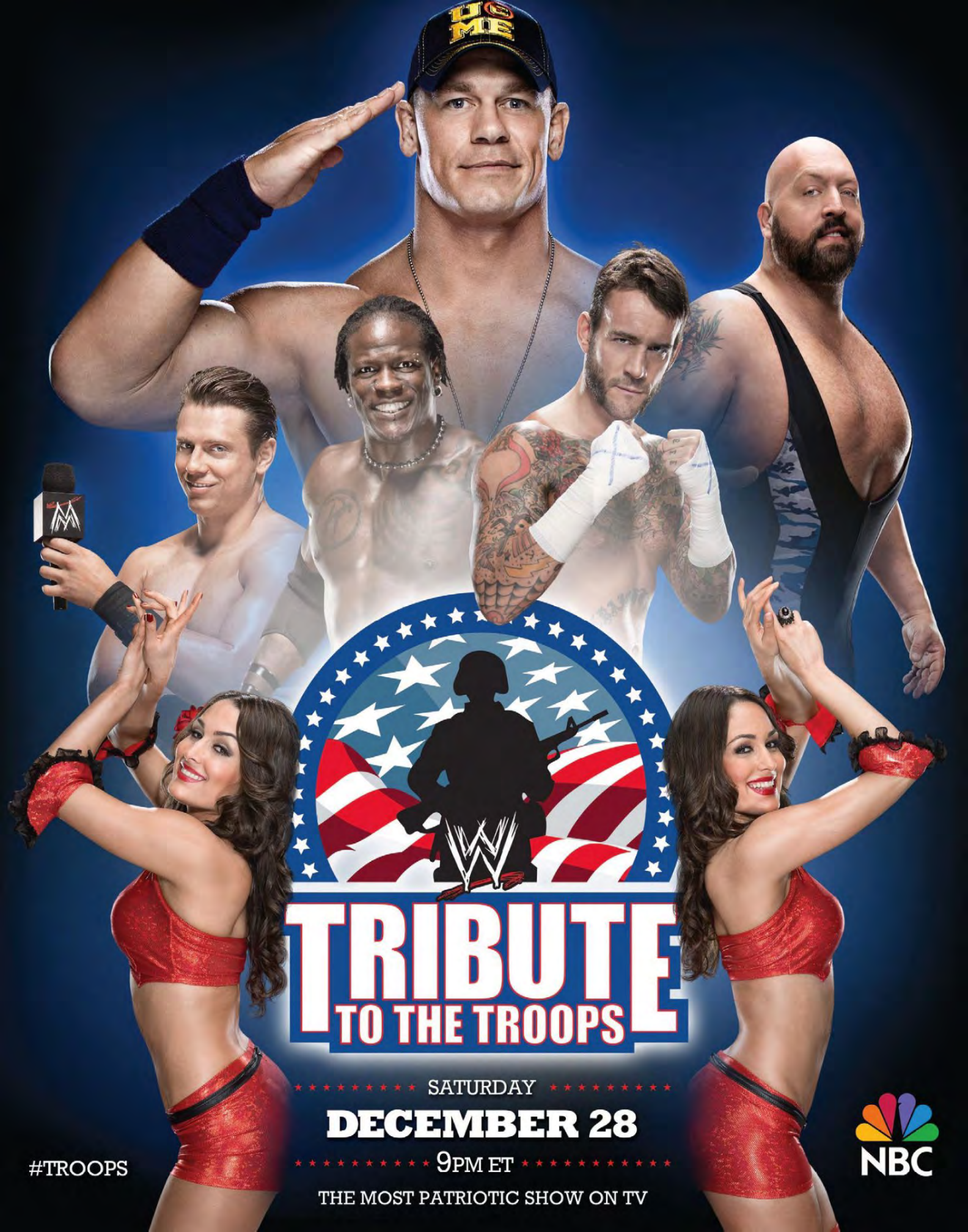
38 TWWEET US
Kofi Kingston leapt to answer your Twitter questions.

40 BODY SHOP
Let Roman Reigns show you how to build explosive functional strength with this Shield-approved routine.

42 DIVA OF THE MONTH
The stunning Kaitlyn offers her spin on the classic look of The Texas Rattlesnake, Stone Cold Steve Austin.

44 THE DEBUT QUIZ
First impressions are never more important than they are in WWE. So be sure to make your first attempt at this quiz count!

24 DREAM HOLIDAY
The iconic Rhodes family shares their favorite end-of-year stories and disasters.


TRIBUTE
TO THE TROOPS
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 28
9PM ET
THE MOST PATRIOTIC SHOW ON TV
#TROOPS
NBC

MAGAZINE

CONTENTS

JANUARY 2014

FEATURES

48 THE 2013 WWE MAGAZINE AWARDS
It's been another crazy year in WWE, from underrated underdogs to the new "faces" of the company. See who earned our highest accolades and most prestigious awards, such as:
- Superstar of the Year!
- Diva of the Year!
- Most Controversial Superstar!
- Jerk of the Year!
- Breakup of the Year!
- Match of the Year!

64 WWE MAGAZINE: THE 2013 OUTTAKES
The *WWE Magazine* crew leaves the comfy confines of our cubicles to photograph the WWE Superstars and Divas in exclusive shoots throughout the year. But not all of those pictures appear in the pages of this mag. Check out these rare, never-before-seen shots from 2013 of AJ Lee, Daniel Bryan, CM Punk, Big E Langston, Damien Sandow, and many more!

INSIDER

68 INSIDER
Big E Langston teaches Paul Heyman a valuable lesson, The Champ is here (for the 14th time), and Shawn Michaels breaks hearts in Miami.

76 DOLPH ZIGGLER Q&A
The Show Off reflects on his tumultuous 2013, and why this year will be vastly different for him.

80 BEFORE THE BELL
Nikki and Brie Bella explain the importance of their "booty tap" before stepping into action.

63 MOST OVERLOOKED MATCH
Alberto Del Rio and Big Show set the standard for 2013 with an unforgettable Last Man Standing bout.

ID STATEMENT Issue #96 of WW Magazine (ISSN 1933-4524, USPS 720-450, Canadian Publications Mail Sales Agreement No. 0392960) is published every four weeks, 12 times a year by WWE. © 2013 WWE, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902 and published in Canada by WWE Canada, (GST No. R12189385), 2 Lansing Square, Suite 1003, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2J 4P8. Basic subscription rates are $24.97 for 12 issues and $44.97 for 24 issues for U.S. and U.S. possessions. Any special issue will count as a monthly subscription issue. Canadian rates are $29.97 for 12 issues and $54.97 for 24 issues including 7% GST. Foreign rates are $44.97 for 12 issues and $84.97 for 24 issues. ALL ORDERS ARE PAYABLE IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. NO FOREIGN CREDIT ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Periodical Postage Paid at Stamford, CT, and other additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to WWE, WWE, PO Box 1677-9 North Hollywood, CA 91615-9996.

All Rights Reserved. All WWE programming, talent names, images, likenesses, slogans, wrestling moves, trademarks, logos and copyrights are the exclusive property of WWE. and its subsidiaries. The Ultimate Warrior is the trademark of Ultimate Creations, Inc. All other trademarks, logos and copyrights are the property of their respective owners. © 2013 WWE, All Rights Reserved.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

WRESTLEMANIA XXX

APRIL 6, 2014

MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME ◆ NEW ORLEANS

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

VISIT WRESTLEMANIA.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TICKETMASTER.COM
OR CHARGE-BY-PHONE 800-745-3000

#WRESTLEMANIA

™ & © 2013 WWE. All Rights Reserved.

YEARBOOK

LET'S HEAR IT FOR 2013!

Before we celebrate the impending New Year and the *WWE Magazine* Awards, let's take a look back at what might be the best 365 days in WWE history!

As another year in WWE comes to a close, we're already thinking about who's going to win the Royal Rumble (Page 18) and taking our 30th trip on "The Road to WrestleMania.*" But let's not forget the sheer awesomeness contained in the 2013 calendar. The eighth annual edition of the* WWE Magazine *Awards once again seeks to honor/dishonor the best and worst that the Superstars and Divas brought from the locker room to the ring and into your home for 365 days (Page 48). While you probably won't agree with all of our winners, we're pretty sure that the Superstar of the Year is a solid pick; however, feel free to let us know where we went wrong by hitting us up on Twitter:* **@WWEmagazine**. *We're also celebrating the New Year with The Rhodes Family (Page 24) as well as the incomparable Diamond Dallas Page, who's got some excellent advice for all those January 1st resolutions you'll be making again. And, as always, there's our end-of-year outtakes (Page 64) from all of our backstage photo shoots. So here's to 2014. See you guys in the New Year!*

ON THE COVER

JOHN CENA

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
Marius Bugge

DIGITAL IMAGING BY
Eric Heintz

BONUS
Kaitlyn salutes Stone Cold!
PAGE 42

MAGAZINE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, DIGITAL & PRINT PUBLICATIONS	John Mihaly
CREATIVE DIRECTOR, DIGITAL & PRINT	David Hilton
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Christine Reilly
MANAGING DIRECTOR	Patricia DeLuca

EDITORIAL

ASSOCIATE EDITOR	Max Bakke
ASSISTANT EDITORS	Kayla Parent
	Jeff Laboon
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR	Matt Christensen
COPY CHIEF	David Podgurski
EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS	Justin Leslie
	Carlos Mejia
	Nicholas Sampogna
	Dustin Wallace
EDITORIAL INTERN	Steve Smirti

ART

SENIOR ART DIRECTORS	Damian Wilkinson
	Warren Mason
ART DIRECTOR	Eugene Wang
SENIOR DESIGNERS	Christian Rodriguez
SENIOR DESIGNER, DIGITAL PUBLISHING	Kyla Paolucci

PHOTOGRAPHY

DEPUTY PHOTO EDITOR, DIGITAL & PRINT	Meg Reinhardt
PHOTO EDITOR	Leah Rudolfo
PHOTO INTERN	Robert Cioffi

PUBLISHING

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, DIGITAL & PRINT	Rob Bernstein
DIRECTOR OF PUBLISHING	Gregory Godfrey
DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL PLANNING	Patrick Tuttle
SR. MANAGER, GENERAL ACCOUNTING	Lisa Pensiero
CIRCULATION	National Publisher Services
PREMEDIA	Catchlight Digital

WWE may share information about magazine subscribers with third party advertising partners that we deem of interest for our readers. These third parties may send subscriber's information about their products or services. WWE does not allow them to sell or transfer subscriber Personal Information to others. For more information, including instructions about how to opt-out, please see WWE's privacy policy online at **http://www.wwe.com/help/generalfaq/privacy-policy** or write to us at WWE Magazine, 1241 East Main Street Stamford, CT 06902.

INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS

UK

TURKEY

FIND US ONLINE: WWE.COM/MAGAZINE/

TO SUBSCRIBE TO WWE MAGAZINE, OR FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION, VISIT WWE.COM/MAGAZINE. FOR INTERNATIONAL LICENSING OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT LICENSINGWWEMAGAZINE@WWE.COM

NOW ON WWE.COM

10 BEST TLC MATCHES

Celebrate WWE TLC with video highlights from the 10 best TLC Matches ever contested, featuring DX, Kane, CM Punk and more.

TLC THROWBACK!

See the first-ever TLC Match in FULL!

TLC TABLES | LADDERS | CHAIRS

KICKOFF

Catch the WWE TLC 2013 Kickoff on WWE.com– Dec. 15th at 7:30 p.m. ET

YOUR POWER RANKINGS

Who's #1 in WWE? Rank the week's top 25 Superstars and Divas. Visit **WWE.COM/FANRANKINGS** *to take control today.*

2013's BEST DIVA PHOTOS

Experience the very best of your favorite WWE & NXT Divas from 2013. Explore 50-plus photos you NEED to see before 2014, including Kaitlyn, Layla & others on their days off.

PLAY TYPE OR TAP!

Think you know WWE? Test your knowledge of Superstars, matches, events, championships and more—in three minutes or less. Will you tap?

© 2013 WWE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

BRAWL

+ YOUR BARE-KNUCKLE GUIDE TO THE WORLD OF WRESTLING

RAW FOOTAGE

THE SHIELD VS. THE USOS

OCTOBER 21, 2013
MEMPHIS, TN

When Cody Rhodes & Goldust captured the WWE Tag Titles, they also won a rather large target on their backs. In The King's hometown, both The Usos and The Shield looked to send a message to the new titleholders in a bruising bout. Roman Reigns nearly took off Jimmy's head with a clothesline, and Jey returned the favor with a kick, but the Rhodes boys joined the fight, creating chaos before either team could score the win. Clearly, they welcome the competition.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **RICH FREEDA**

RAW

FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHT

EL TORITO CHASES JACK SWAGGER SMACKDOWN

OCTOBER 18, 2013
KANSAS CITY, MO

Zeb Colter's big mouth got his Real Americans into another jam. Since Los Matadores debuted in WWE, Colter has taken to Twitter to complain about the high-flying duo and their raging-bull mascot, El Torito. While The Real Americans competed in tag action on this edition of *SmackDown*, the bull's eyes set on Colter, as he gored the mustachioed manager twice with his horns. The distraction cost Jack Swagger the match, but Los Matadores and El Torito still flattened him for his troubles.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **CRAIG AMBROSIO**

CLASSIC MOMENT

ROYAL RUMBLE MATCH

ROYAL RUMBLE

JANUARY 22, 1994
PROVIDENCE, RI

The Royal Rumble Match lends itself to strange friendships. Bam Bam Bigelow didn't make buddies easily, but the prospect of ruining Lex Luger's night was too good of an opportunity, so he joined up with Fatu to corner Luger. Don't buy friendship bracelets for these two, though, because partnerships of convenience never last in WWE. Bam Bam and the Headshrinker went their separate ways shortly after this pic was snapped, and were each eliminated. It's every man for himself—but a BFF goes a long way.

BY THE NUMBERS

CM PUNK VS. RYBACK (W/ PAUL HEYMAN)
HELL IN A CELL

OCTOBER 27, 2013
MIAMI, FL

What a difference a year makes. Last October, CM Punk climbed to the roof of the Cell to get away from Ryback while Paul Heyman watched on with worry. At this year's *Hell In A Cell*, Heyman hid from Punk on the top of the Cell while Ryback lay unconscious on the ringside floor. Heyman's newest "guy" learned that Punk is not to be messed with, as The Straight Edge Superstar drove him through a table with a top-rope elbow on the way to victory. Punk then scaled the Cell to corner his former BFF and sent him to bed with a GTS.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **ERIC JOHNSON**

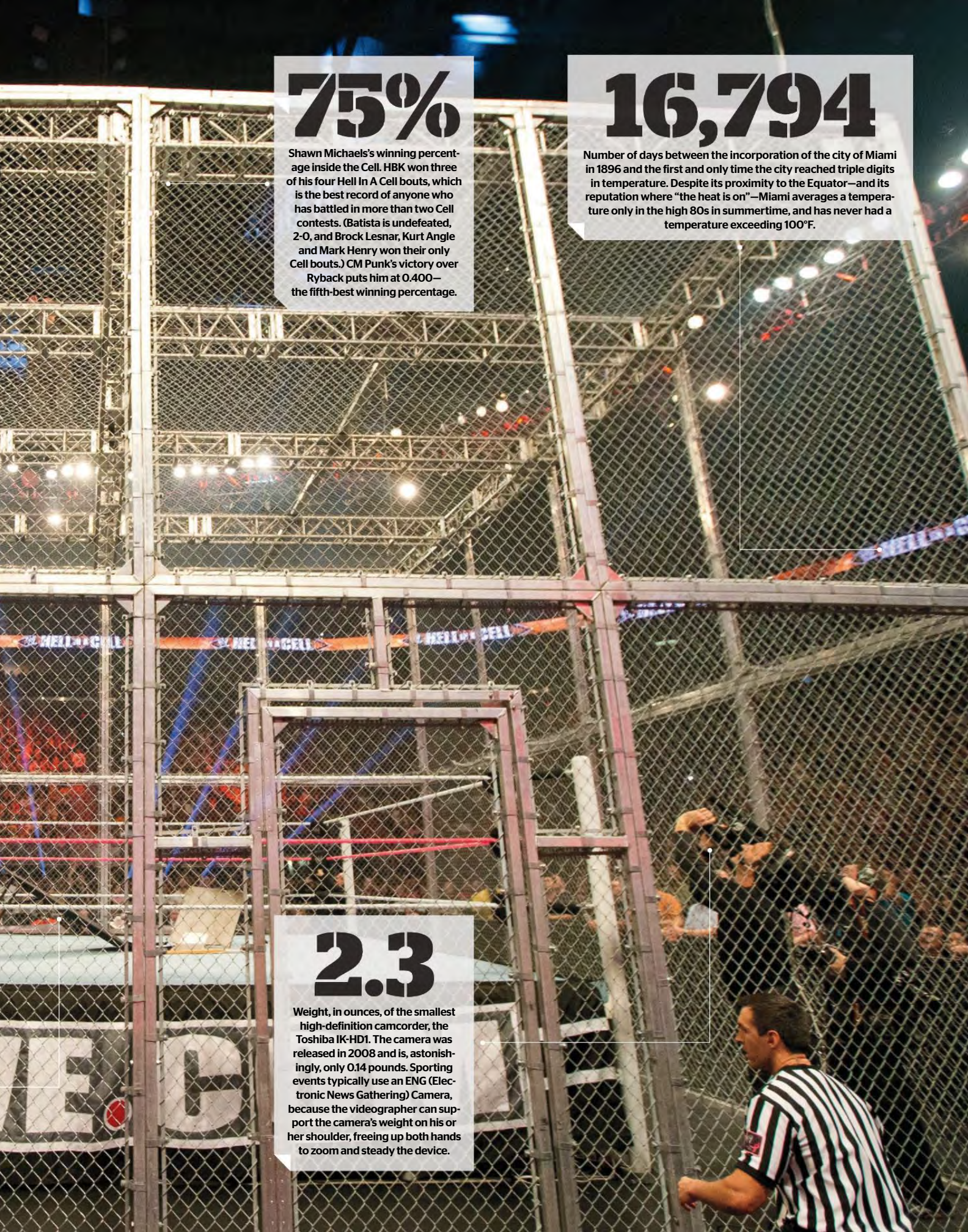
HELL IN A CELL

47.24

Maximum length, in inches, of a kendo stick used by someone 18 or older, per the rules of the International Kendo Federation. The word "kendo" means "the way of the sword" and is meant as a method of building character through rigid training. A kendo stick is made of bamboo and frequently finds its way into Hardcore bouts—thanks in part to ECW's Sandman and Steve Blackman.

2008

The year that *Forbes Magazine* named Miami the cleanest city in the United States. The "Magic City" was one of four Florida cities to make the top 10 of the list, which was based on air quality, water purity and the cleanliness of city streets. Unfortunately, CM Punk and Ryback left the inside of AmericanAirlines Arena a mess after their destructive Hell In A Cell Match.



75%

Shawn Michaels's winning percentage inside the Cell. HBK won three of his four Hell In A Cell bouts, which is the best record of anyone who has battled in more than two Cell contests. (Batista is undefeated, 2-0, and Brock Lesnar, Kurt Angle and Mark Henry won their only Cell bouts.) CM Punk's victory over Ryback puts him at 0.400—the fifth-best winning percentage.

16,794

Number of days between the incorporation of the city of Miami in 1896 and the first and only time the city reached triple digits in temperature. Despite its proximity to the Equator—and its reputation where "the heat is on"—Miami averages a temperature only in the high 80s in summertime, and has never had a temperature exceeding 100°F.

2.3

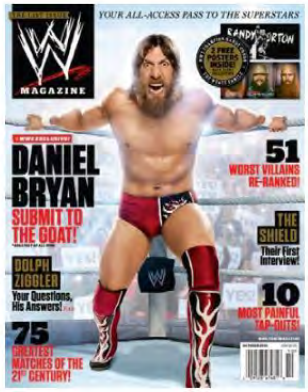
Weight, in ounces, of the smallest high-definition camcorder, the Toshiba IK-HD1. The camera was released in 2008 and is, astonishingly, only 0.14 pounds. Sporting events typically use an ENG (Electronic News Gathering) Camera, because the videographer can support the camera's weight on his or her shoulder, freeing up both hands to zoom and steady the device.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

AND

SAVE 70%

OFF NEWSSTAND SALE PRICE



Make check or money order payable to *WWE Magazine* and mail to: **WWE Magazine PO Box 6341 Harlan, IA 51593-3841.**
In Canada, add (U.S.) $5.00 for 12 issues to U.S. Price. (7% GST included.) Foreign add (U.S.) $20.00 for 12 issues to U.S. Price. Payment in U.S. Funds only.
An annual subscription includes 12 issues at the regular cover price of $83.88 per year. Newsstand-only special issues are not included, but *WWE Magazine* reserves the right to substitute a special issue for a monthly issue. By subscribing you are agreeing to WWE's Privacy Policy, and the third party uses of information described therein. For more information, including instructions to opt-out, please visit: http://www.wwe.com/help/generalfaq/privacy-policy or see the text on Page 6 of this issue. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of first issue. © 2013 WWE. All Rights Reserved.

twitter.com/wwemagazine facebook.com/wwemagazines

Who Will Be The Next Rumble Star?

The **Royal Rumble**'s history is marked by Legends such as Stone Cold Steve Austin, John Cena, Kane and HBK. Each has left his mark on the signature match, but who among the crop of young WWE talent will step up to join them? Here's our case for these eight to do just that.

LEGEND

A → W

TOTAL RUMBLE APPEARANCES — TOTAL RUMBLE WINS

It's easy to toss out dizzy opponents.

1 → 0

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT: ELIMINATED DANIEL BRYAN IN 2013'S RUMBLE

▸ Antonio Cesaro

While his Rumble experience is slim, Cesaro's been a continuous highlight reel the past year with his jawdropping moves. If, by any chance, he could clear a Rumble ring with a Ninja Turtle-like Giant Swing, that moment would be re-watched, and GIF'd, for years to come.

3 → 1

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT: BACK-TO-BACK FINAL FOUR APPEARANCES IN 2012-2013

▸ Sheamus

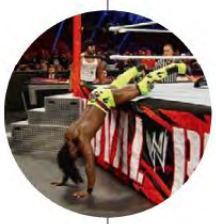
In 2012, The Celtic Warrior became the first Superstar since 2007 to go on to claim the WHC after winning the Rumble. Sheamus also made the Final Four at 2013's event. Only four Superstars have won multiple Rumble Matches, and three are WWE Hall of Famers. That's a club Sheamus wants to be in!

5 → 0

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT: HAND-WALKED NEARLY 20 FEET IN 2012

▸ Kofi Kingston

The Wildcat's already made a name for himself at the Rumble with his creative methods of avoiding elimination. But all the hand-walking and chair-surfing won't mean much without a win. Victory is much better than a highlight reel.

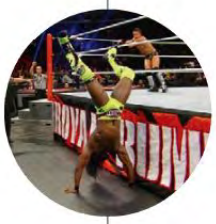


1 → 1

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT: SIXTH SUPERSTAR TO CHALLENGE FOR THE WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

▸ Alberto Del Rio

In the first-ever 40-man Rumble, Del Rio emerged from the supersized pack victorious. In the year's since, he's cemented his place as a top villain in WWE, armed with a ruthless in-ring style. His manipulative wiles will assuredly see him to the end of the match yet again.

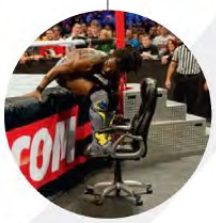


5 → 0

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT: SPENT 43:57 IN THE RING IN 2012'S RUMBLE MATCH

▸ Cody Rhodes

One of the highlights of 2013's event was seeing Cody Rhodes square off in the ring against his brother, Goldust. Now, the two are Tag Team Champions. Rhodes's stock is skyrocketing, and another big performance may be the magic bullet to get him into the main-event scene.



1 → 0

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT: LAST MAN ELIMINATED IN 2013

▸ Ryback

Ryback eliminated five men to make the final two in his first Rumble Match before getting ousted by Cena. It was nevertheless a dominant performance for a rookie outing. With Paul Heyman now in his corner, there's no reason why Ryback can't repeat that effort in his second opportunity at the event.

1 → 1

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT: ELIMINATED THREE MEN IN A ROW IN 2003

▸ Brock Lesnar

Brock Lesnar won the only Rumble he appeared in. But then vanished from the match. This Wrecking Ball needs to be back in the 30-man melee. If he ever does decide to step into the ring again at the Rumble, the rest of the roster is going to head for the hills. He's that good. And that scary.

5 → 0

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT: ELIMINATED THE FIRST FIVE FOES HE FACED IN 2010

▸ CM Punk

It's strange that, for a Superstar who's had success in nearly every other major WWE stip, Punk has yet to win the Rumble. He has offered his fair share of memorable moments, however, and is building an impressive Rumble résumé as an also-ran. One win could make him a Rumble legend.

THE BEST FORGOTTEN RUMBLE MOMENTS

Bret Hart and Lex Luger touching the floor at the same time; John Morrison crawling along the barricade; and Kofi Kingston hand-walking back into the ring—these are the Rumble moments that are seared into our brains. The following five recent events you may have forgotten about, but they're just as cool.

1 2010 *Boston, MA*
Not only did CM Punk eliminate the first five Superstars he faced in the Rumble, but he also cut a sermon on each one after dumping them to the outside. Triple H showed up and shut him up, but it was still one of the strangest beginnings we've seen.

2 1998 *Kansas City*
Mick Foley pulled triple duty as Cactus Jack, Dude Love and Mankind all in the same Rumble, but was quickly eliminated all three times, showing that maybe, there's not that much power in the numbers game after all. The Shield might want to take notice.

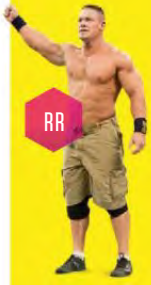
3 2008 *New York, NY*
Setting the tone for future legend Rumble cameos, WWE Hall of Famers "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka and "Rowdy" Roddy Piper, won the first "You Still Got It!" Award here. All action halted when these two icons squared off. All that was missing was a coconut.

4 2012 *Chicago, IL*
Despite being eliminated from the fray, announcers Jerry Lawler and Booker T refused to let their colleague Michael Cole steal Rumble glory. Just over a minute into his first Rumble, the duo combined to drag Cole from the ring and back to the announce desk.

5 2011 *Denver, CO*
Showing early flashes of potential, The Internet Champ, mired in a rut, came into the ring on fire, beelining for Daniel Bryan and CM Punk. Bryan eventually tossed Long Island Iced Z over the top rope, but it was Zack Ryder's first step toward his breakthrough 2011.

ROYAL RUMBLE OR RUMBLE IN THE BRONX?

Can you tell from these channel-guide descriptions which program event is from WWE's **Royal Rumble** or the 1994 kung-fu hit ***Rumble in the Bronx***?



- An underdog overcomes insurmountable odds to score a big victory over a field of angry opponents.
- A physical altercation is highlighted by one man attacking the other with a car antenna.
- One man's conflict with his boss culminates in a public and violent confrontation.
- A brawl spills into a warehouse where refrigerators, stereos and a pinball machine are all trashed.

1. Royal Rumble. 2. Rumble in the Bronx. 3. Royal Rumble. 4. Rumble in the Bronx

RUMBLE IN THE BRONX COURTESY OF EVERETT COLLECTION

Save The Date!

As of late, Daniel Bryan's been pretty unlucky in the ring, but very lucky in love, getting a "Yes!" from Brie Bella. In anticipation of their pending nuptials, we're offering our readers a first glimpse at their unique WWE wedding registry.

NUPTIALS NUMBERS!

Some fairy-tale figures about that special day. Yes! Yes! A million times Yes!

5,155 The highest elevation (in feet) of Big Sur. The popular mountain range in California is where Daniel Bryan popped the question.

138 Average number of guests at a wedding, according to 2012 Wedding Report. That means that Brie and Daniel have room to invite the entire WWE roster *and* their dates.

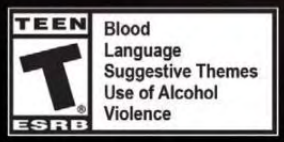
SHUTTERSTOCK.COM(4);ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

WWE 2K14

30 YEARS OF WRESTLEMANIA.
ONE EPIC GAME.

BECOME IMMORTAL

AVAILABLE NOW



Source and/or object code to underlying software for "WWE 2K14" © 2005–2013 by Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc. Published by 2K. 2K, Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc. and their respective logos are trademarks of Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc. All WWE programming, talent names, images, likenesses, slogans, wrestling moves, trademarks, logos and copyrights are the exclusive property of WWE and its subsidiaries. All other trademarks, logos and copyrights are the property of their respective owners. "WWE 2K14" © 2013 by WWE. All Rights Reserved.

"I couldn't care less about what members of the WWE Universe think. Being a 'Jerk' to them feels good to me, actually. I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth. I've always gotten things handed to me, but the topping on the cake is having talent enough to become a 'Paul Heyman Guy' and becoming Intercontinental Champion. And when I see the WWE Universe standing in the airport at four in the morning begging for an autograph, I now have the right, as a 'Jerk of the Month,' to ignore them. Thanks for that!"

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICH FREEDA

JERK OF THE MONTH

Every 30 days, *WWE Magazine* celebrates the roster's most malicious malcontents and all the evil machinations they've wrought on the WWE Universe by honoring them with our prestigious trophy. Say hello to this month's bad guy: **Curtis Axel.** Oh, and **Paul Heyman**, too.

THE PERFECTION INDEX

We're Willing To Overlook

Curtis Axel became a fixture on *Raw* in 2013 by aligning himself with the reviled Paul Heyman to become one of "his guys." But Heyman not only immediately helped him earn the Intercontinental Championship, but also turned the likes of Stone Cold Steve Austin and Brock Lesnar into stars, so if Axel's going to be a jerk, he's at least in good company.

Kinda Jerkish

It was pretty low for Axel to get in Bret Hart's face when the WWE Hall of Famer made a guest appearance on *Raw*. The Intercontinental Champ must be chomping on some of his dad's leftover beef with The Hitman from the early '90s. How else do you explain stepping to not just a man, but a legend who wouldn't think twice about putting you in a Sharpshooter?

Major League Jerk

Axel might've adopted Heyman's meanness and opportunism, but he's yet to showcase his manager's gift for gab. His seemingly perma-frown and his taciturn demeanor standing beside "The Walrus" during his promos are not going to make him any friends. But then again, maybe that's the point all along.

Total & Complete Jerk

Being a Paul Heyman Guy doesn't mean you have to be a Paul Heyman pushover. Axel is doing himself no favors fighting Heyman's battles for him and helping his manager stoke the fires of his rivalry with CM Punk. Let Ryback and Brock Lesnar do Heyman's dirty work. It's time for Curtis Axel to do Curtis Axel.

MASCOT MANIA

WHEN YOU MESS WITH THE BULL...

Nearly three years ago, the Swagger Soaring Eagle captured the hearts of the WWE Universe. Now, El Torito is looking to do the same. But who's the greater anthropomorphic mascot?

EL TORITO

- **Debut:** 2013
- **From:** Plaza de Toros
- **Size:** 4'9"
- **Eats:** Protein, Hay, Spaniards, 3MB
- **Secret Weapon:** Really big horns
- **Speed:** Up to 35 miles per hour
- **Predators:** None
- **Pop culture reference:** Bevo, the University of Texas mascot

THE SWAGGER SOARING EAGLE

- **Debut:** 2010
- **From:** Perry, Oklahoma
- **Height/Wingspan:** 68"/60"
- **Eats:** Fish, Leprechauns
- **Secret Weapon:** Super sharp eyesight
- **Speed:** 35 miles per hour
- **Predators:** Poachers, Edge
- **Pop culture reference:** National animal of the United States

JACK SWAGGER:
"The eagle was a unique addition to my stable. It's one of those things that'll never be duplicated again. He was intimidating and funny. He was as fierce as our country, but goofy as hell. He's currently living on a ranch in Oklahoma. He had a couple little baby eagles, but he's training every day. He'll be ready when I need him."

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

REJECTED EL TORITO NAMES

It took some trial and error to arrive at "El Torito." Take a look at what he could have been called!

Taurus Bullba · *Roll Totino* · *Briley Spears* · *El Camino* · *El Misquito* · *Scoop Tostito* · *Ciclope* · *Stan Pede* · *Miguel Jordan* · *Mantaur Dos*

ILLUSTRATION BY **GLUEKIT.COM**

Rhodes Family Holidays

Dusty, Goldust and **Cody** share three of their favorite Christmas stories. They're great, but surprisingly lacking in face paint and bionic elbows.

CODY RHODES (THE YOUNGER BROTHER)

"There was one time a grease fire started in the kitchen. And the next thing you know, my family's putting water on it, and it's getting bigger. And I thought, 'I'm sure they know how to put this out.' Then someone took a mason jar full of water, threw it on there, and the glass shattered. By then, the fire was browning the ceiling. Then my dad asked everybody to leave, like he was going to let the house burn down over a freaking grease fire. I got up without saying a word to any of them, and I grabbed baking soda in the fridge and poured it over the fire. I don't have my family's flair for the dramatic. I somehow ended up with a very bad case of adrenalitis."

DUSTY RHODES (THE PATRIARCH)

"Early on, when my wife and I were running together, before the children came, I'd have a big wrestling show on Christmas night in Atlanta. One year I was also looking for a gift for my dad, and I didn't have any money. But a couple days before the show, my brother and I went shopping for him knowing we'd see him later at the event. He was a plumber, so I found this small plastic thing at a hardware store to hold all his nuts and bolts. And that's an ordinary story by itself, but when I gave it to my dad, he asked 'What is this?' and he swore. It was the first time I'd ever heard my dad swear. Over a toolbox, of all things."

GOLDUST (THE OLDER BROTHER)

"It's not easy marrying into the Rhodes family. We're a bunch of professional grapplers after all. But one year, my brother-in-law and my sister brought their new baby. Now, my brother-in-law played professional baseball in the minor leagues, and we were all playing Wii home run derby. Some of us had had a bit of eggnog, so we're having a little fun. And Wii controllers are not always easy to hold on to. So he swung, and that remote went flying, cracked the screen of the television and barely missed the baby's head. Look, I know it's hard to make a good impression, but leaving one on your baby's head isn't the way to do it."

Holiday Haymakers

Wade Barrett thinks the Canadian holiday Boxing Day (for us, the day after Christmas), needs more punching.

Bad News, Canada.

"I'VE PUNCHED HEATH SLATER NUMEROUS TIMES IN THE PAST, AND HE'S PROBABLY THE MOST ANNOYING PERSON IN THE LOCKER ROOM."

1

What's the most important thing to remember when throwing a punch?

▸ People think a punch just comes through your arm, but it comes from your entire body. Your feet, your legs, and a twist in your torso and your shoulder. It's so much more than just sticking your arm out into the air.

2

Then, what's the most important thing to remember when taking a punch?

▸ As someone who has given and received a numerous amount of punches in my life, I'd say duck. But just don't go down. If you do, then someone can put their boots to you, and there's a good chance it'll be tough to get back up. Whatever happens, stay on your feet.

3

Who was the last person to truly hit Wade Barrett hard?

▸ That would have to be Big Show. He's obviously about 500 pounds and his fist is as big as my head. The man is also a trained amateur boxer, so he knows just the right way to hit you and make it hurt. He's got me a few times and put me out so he's got a hell of a punch on him.

4

Who's been the most satisfying person to punch?

▸ I've punched Heath Slater numerous times in the past, and he's probably the most annoying person in the locker room. Punching that ginger is always bound to bring a huge round of applause from the room and makes me feel like a hero.

SELF HIGH-FIVE

START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH A BANG!

Diamond Dallas Page has been helping Superstars and regular Joes alike change their lives with DDP Yoga. Here, he offers some tips on how to make and keep a New Year's resolution.

WHY ARE RESOLUTIONS POPULAR?

It's about new beginnings and a fresh start. But you can do that everyday: Make a list, every day, of what you want to do—put it on your phone if you must—and cross off things as you do them. You'll be amazed at what you accomplish when you're done.

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO CHANGE SOMETHING ABOUT THEMSELVES?

You can change your state of mind in an instant. Focus on a goal, something that's positive. Instead of something that is wrong with you that you're going to change.

IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE AMBITIOUS GOALS, OR A SERIES OF SMALLER, EASIER GOALS?

I think they're both pivotal. When I first started wrestling, I never thought I'd be World Heavyweight Champion. So it's important to have dream goals, and even daily goals.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HAVE A SETBACK?

I hit a wall with DDP Yoga before it took off and there was a chance I'd lose a lot of money, and I was down. But I changed my mindset. I call it "living with an attitude of gratitude"—simply focusing on what you do have.

FINALLY, HOW DO YOU STAY FOCUSED ON THE TASK OF CHANGING?

You don't learn anything from winning—you do it from losing, falling down and making mistakes. It's best to get it out of your system early. Because you'll learn from it, and it'll make you better.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MARIUS BUGGE**

the SCARS of the SUPERSTARS

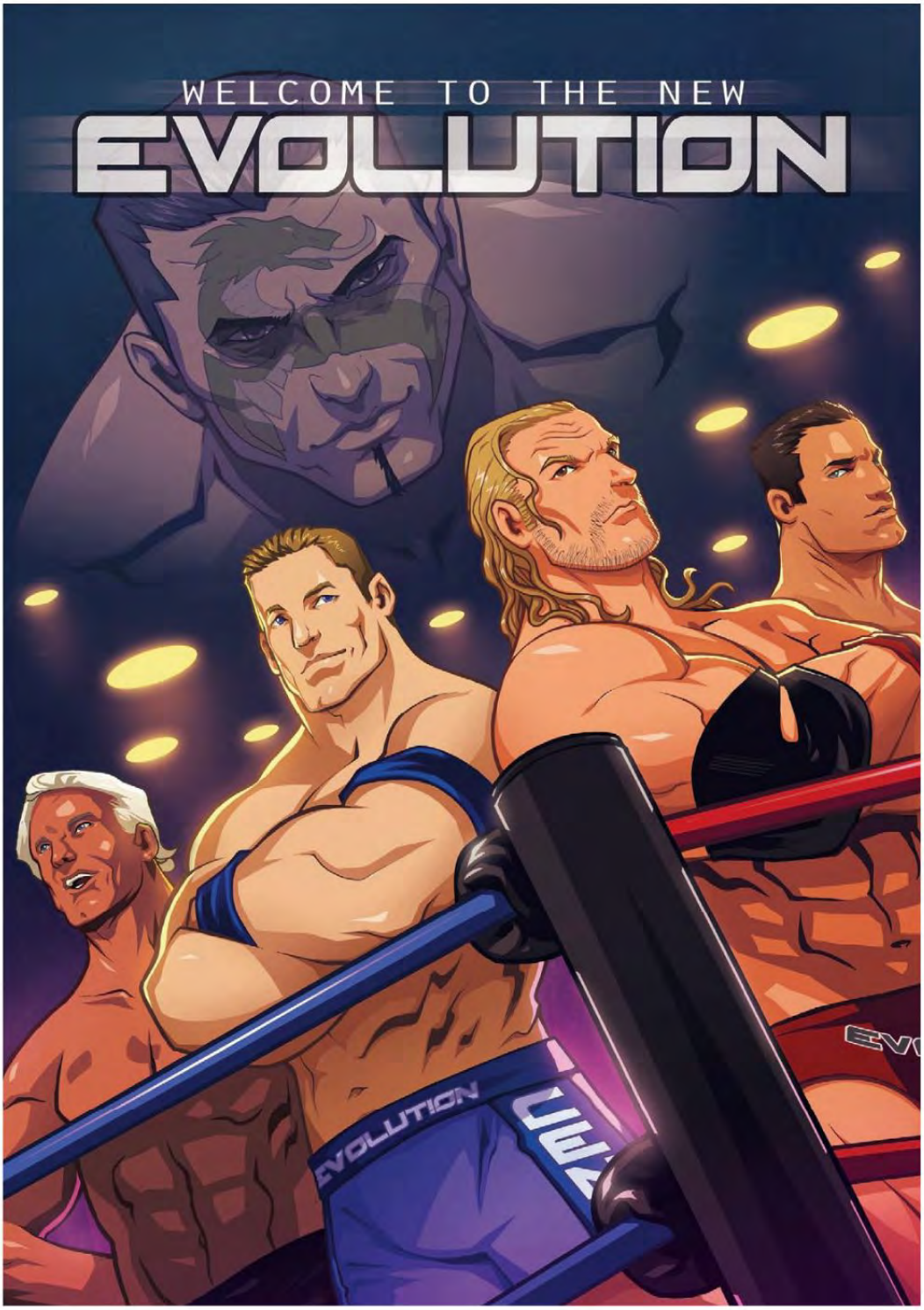
Some say they add character. Others call them permanent souvenirs. And whether Superstars received them inside the ring or out, to the members of the WWE locker room, these "badges of honor" all tell stories that they (and you) are most likely never to forget.

Big E Langston

"In January 2006, I was playing college football at Iowa. I was injured, but I was still with the team, just training on my own. I was bench-pressing, doing 'heavy triples,' which are sets of three until you can't go any heavier. I wasn't lifting a lot of weight, but during one set, I felt a pop and a tear in my pec right at the tendon. I couldn't move my shoulder after it happened. As serious as it was, it was actually the least painful of my injuries. It was bad, but not nearly as bad as tearing my ACL or fracturing my patella. The scar on my shoulder is from the reconstructive surgery. I spent four weeks in a sling, followed immediately by rehab with the football program, working on range of motion for about three months. It took a while to get my strength back, but I did, and I came back stronger than ever."

WWE Alternate Realities

Join us as we transcend space and time to explore what might have become of WWE were we to alter certain history-making moments in wrestling history.



LINE WORK BY EDWIN HUANG, COLORS BY MISTY COATS

988

Total number (in days) of the existence of Evolution in WWE (1/20/03-10/3/05).

WHAT IF?

FACT:
→ In 2003, Batista joined Randy Orton, Ric Flair and Triple H to form Evolution, one of the most dominant factions in WWE history.

BUT SUPPOSE...
→ After being scouted by Ric Flair, The Animal declined the offer, and instead, John Cena was picked as the stable's powerhouse enforcer.

ENTER THE NEW ALTERNATE REALITY
→ Triple H immediately sets Evolution's sights on his biggest threat, Goldberg. At *SummerSlam*, The Game defends his World Championship in an Elimination Chamber Match with the aid of Evolution members Randy Orton and John Cena. Although The Game retains, early signs of mutiny emerge.

→ On *Raw*, Evolution continues their dominance, winning every *Raw* title at *Armageddon*. Much to the chagrin of The Game (who has his hands full with Shawn Michaels), the other three members of Evolution enter the 2004 Royal Rumble—where John Cena walks away the winner after Flair and Orton eliminate each other.

→ Tensions rise as it becomes clear Cena will challenge Triple H at *WMXX* for the World Heavyweight Title. But once Eddie Guerrero defeats Brock Lesnar at *No Way Out* for the WWE Championship, Triple H's masterstroke is revealed—Cena will challenge "Latino Heat" at *WM* so Evolution can expand its influence and reach into *SmackDown* in a diabolical effort to conquer all of WWE!

THE CONSEQUENCES
→ John Cena wins the WWE Championship at *WrestleMania XX* and subsequently takes his talents to *SmackDown* to begin recruiting for Evolution Blue!

→ Triple H maintains a stranglehold on Monday nights, as Evolution Red continues to dominate all opponents they face on *Raw*.

→ And what of Batista? Then Thursday night's newest Superstar unleashes a new look—wearing dragon-influenced face-paint. Will he join Evolution Blue? Or will he be the new face of the WWE Universe? Well that's another story for another place and time...

A so-called "Real American" and "Ultimate Immigrant" submits to a *WWE Magazine* bag check, and reveals what's stuffed inside **Antonio Cesaro's** suitcase—lots of Toblerone and Ricola!

1. Swiss Army Knife
"I was in the Swiss army when I was 20 years old, but most start at 18. You get the knife with your uniform and your rifle. You actually use the Swiss army knife to adjust the rifle's target system. I've been using it to open packages lately."

2. Football Jersey
"That's the jersey of the Swiss national team, who just qualified for the 2014 World Cup. It was a gift. Number 10 is usually reserved for the best player."

3. Swiss Edelweiss Shirt
"This is a traditional Swiss shirt historically worn by the farmers who live in the mountains and herd their sheep and cows. It's really worn during any time of year."

4. Weightlifting Sneakers
"Lifting is a big part of my life and routine. These are for Olympic cleans and snatches. They give you more balance and strength, for example, when you're performing a front squat: The soles aren't rubbery, so they give you more traction and control."

5. Headphones
"Everyone wears those 'Beats' headphones, but I support Sennheiser, with their quality German engineering."

6. Wrestling Boots
"I've had this pair for about a year. I'll get another couple years out of them. You have to polish them, air them out and put shoe trees in them to make them last."

7. Rugby Ball
"My rugby days are behind me, but what does being a Real American mean? Well, I'm the ultimate immigrant. The ultimate immigrant would play rugby. Thus, I am enhancing this country by just being here."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIUS BUGGE; PROP STYLING BY ANDRES [illegible]
FOR ARTISTS BY TIMOTHY PRANO; ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

The Working Dead

In their mismatched tights and lost looks, these local talents might be easily confused for zombies. But they don't eat much of anything. Just catering.

Brains??

Watch the hung head and limp arms. These jobbers are either swaying toward the ring to be pulverized by a Superstar, or hoping to snag the last chocolate chip cookie.

What's Next?

Take a gander at these four. You might be looking at the next Internet Darling or WWE Champion. It's possible—someday. But today, they're just Ryback food.

Light Up The Eyes

To defeat a local competitor, you don't have to just target the head. You can target anywhere, really. They're like a *3 Ninjas* dummy that lights up no matter where you hit it.

No 2nd Chances

When there is no more room in the indies, the dead will walk the backstage hallways of *Raw* and *SmackDown*, looking for their changing room.

nWo Meh

Looking at this group of local competitors, you'd think they've developed a horde mentality. But numbers don't make them stronger, it's just more batting practice for our WWE Superstars.

YES, NO, MAYBE SO...

WWE TREND WATCH

Where *WWE Magazine* takes the temperature of the hottest crazes and decides what's hot and what's not. In this edition, Movember might be over, but not for the Superstars, who've let their facial hair go wilder than a Funkadactyl fight.

THIS MONTH: BEARDS

ADVENTURE TIME
ENCYCLOPÆDIA
MARTIN OLSON
AJ LEE
Composition
AJ LEE
DOLPH
THE DONAS TITLE WILL BE TRUE!
ESSENTIAL
X-MEN
Pokemon
MASH
HUBBY
DOLPH
JOB
C.O.O.
CAR
V DUB
PET
SNARE

Q + A

The Diary of a Year in The Life of a T-Shirt-Destroying, Pipebomb-shelling, Black-Widowing, Divas Champion.

What AJ Lee accomplished in 2013 would be enough for an entire career, but she's only getting started. Here, on the cusp of a new 12 months in WWE, the Divas Champion reflects on her now-infamous *Raw* promo, what she's learned from the Superstars she's left in her wake, and how she plans to top it all in the new year.

by John Mihaly Photography by Marius Bugge

So AJ, do you keep a diary of everything that's happened to you this past year?
I love writing, and I've made jokes about having a dream journal, but no, I don't keep one. I'm super paranoid about someone reading it. The only diary I've ever kept was a small journal of all my matches from my first year wrestling. It ends around the first year in FCW and the live event match, which was my first official WWE bout. My dream of all dreams is to write a book one day.

Have you ever written a note to your future self that you've now gone back and read?
No, but it is nice to remind yourself that nothing comes to you. You have to, no matter what, wherever you think you are, you still have to fight for everything; and that's what I've never forgotten—I'm just a natural fighter because of where I've been and how I've grown up, and not everyone realizes that's what is necessary.

Now that you are the reigning Divas Champion, do you finally feel like an adult, and that this isn't all just a dream?
I don't think I'll ever feel like an adult. I've really grown and figured out what I can do on my own and that was the scariest thing in the world. Now I feel like where I am is being able to help other people. I've gotten to do everything I've wanted to do, and now it's about how I leave this business better for everybody else. So it's a really weird transition to make in two years, but my goal now is for people to say, "Yeah, I have to watch the girls, I need to tune in and see what the Divas are doing." We're getting there and it's been getting super interesting for months. That's super cool and I've been really lucky to be part of it. That's the maturity level I think I've reached in the past year.

What's your biggest, most important accomplishment in WWE that we don't necessarily know about yet?
Probably everything it took to get my T-shirt produced, and I know that sounds pretty silly. It was really hard, and it had been five or six years since they had put the machine behind a woman in that way, and there was so much doubt and people saying no. It was a year-long fight to get it done. When Kaitlyn became popular, they didn't give it a second thought; in two seconds, they said, "OK, let's give her a shirt." That's what I want to see and that's what I was talking about when I made my big promo.

So about that so-called "pipebomb-shell" promo that you delivered on the August 26, 2013, edition of *Raw*—take us back to that night. What led up to that verbal explosion?
That was a really interesting time. As the story goes, I was asked to be on *Total Divas*, and I turned it down. Then, because of that decision, it became a bit of a hostile work environment between myself and the Divas on that show. I hadn't been myself about it and I was very upset. The Chairman basically said, "If she's upset, let her go out there and tell us why." Never has anyone on earth trusted me as much as he did with that. No one knew

"Never has anyone on earth trusted me as much as Mr. McMahon did with that."

what was going to happen. I wasn't trying to make people mad, I was just trying to say what was on my mind. People might like me or hate me for what I said, but as long as someone is picking a side, that means they're into it.

Your new(ish) submission maneuver, the Black Widow, literally drains your opponent's energy. It appears to be a very personal message you're sending with that move. Was that the idea behind it?
The idea behind it came from people actually calling me "Black Widow" because I would enter these guys' lives and destroy them. A lot of people would say that's a negative thing, but I tried turning it into a positive. I really love that move. Antonio Inoki used to use it in Japan. Norman Smiley taught me how to do it in FCW, and I fell in love with it. I'm also really tiny, and I can't throw anyone around in the ring. So you know, it's my only weapon.

Did Norman Smiley also try to show you how to perform the "Big Wiggle"?
I think he did attempt to do that in my FCW career, but it's like looking into the sun. You can't look directly at the Big Wiggle, but you also you can't look away from it.

What's harder for you these days: Being in the ring or all the extra media appearances that you now have to make?
You know what's funny? I got hurt about two years ago and was fairly limited as to what I could do in the ring for a while. I spent all this time not in the ring being a manager or a GM. And there was part of me that wondered if I could handle getting back in there and being able to grapple anymore. Believe me, it was really cool starting to compete again and then becoming champion. But it's what I love to do. What I wanted to do, all along, was be out in the ring. The other stuff is very difficult, though. I was with Dolph Ziggler for a long time, and we would have these early-morning radio appearances together that we would make on no sleep at all for me. But he's a little media machine. Stuff like that is kind of overwhelming. He doesn't turn it off. He never shuts down. Whereas for me, it's just a lot easier to be in the middle of the ring in front of a thousand people than doing one-on-one interviews.

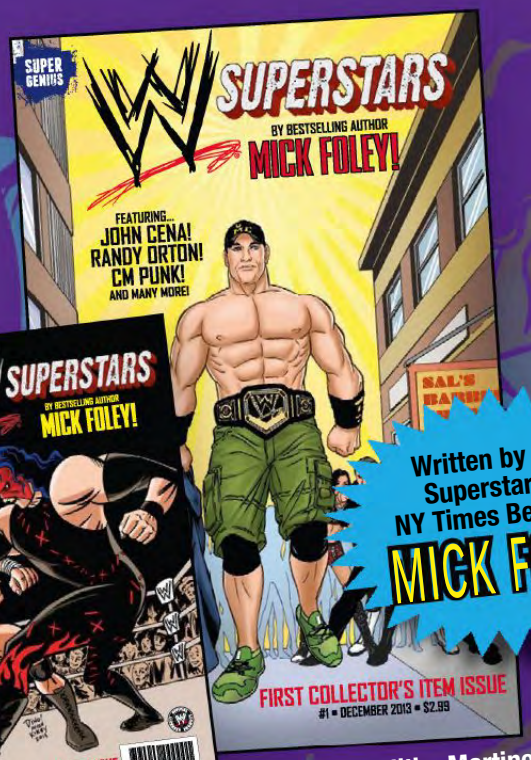
Speaking of Mr. Ziggler, you spent a lot of time with him and other WWE Superstars on the road to becoming Divas Champion. What did each of them teach you?
I started with Daniel Bryan, which was weird and awkward because we both were fairly new here. People didn't know us or maybe they didn't believe in us and we were both super underdogs. With CM Punk, he was one of the first Superstars to walk me around and be a mentor and a teacher to me. I feel like I learned so much from him. After that, John Cena taught me so much about the business, and he took me to the next level. With Dolph, it was really the first time I was someone's partner. We figured so much out together for almost nine months. I don't know if I could be here without any of them.

You're back to hanging out with the ladies these days. Tell us about your new friend, Tamina Snuka. If you're Shawn Michaels, then she's your Diesel, right?
I like to call her Lady Diesel. But we are not Two Dudettes with Attitude. I don't think I could ever betray The Chickbusters and come up with another women's tag team name, though. Maybe when I stop kicking Kaitlyn's face in and she stops Spearing me, then, maybe—maybe—one day we can finally resolve our issues.

How can you possibly top what you did this year in 2014?
I don't know if I can top it, personally. But what would make me happiest is for people to get to know and like all of the women on the roster like they did me. It's not just that the Divas are all sparkly and look alike. I want people to know that's Kaitlyn. And that's Brie. And that's Tamina. We're getting there and my goal this next year is for everyone else to know. Hate me or love me, but at least have an opinion.

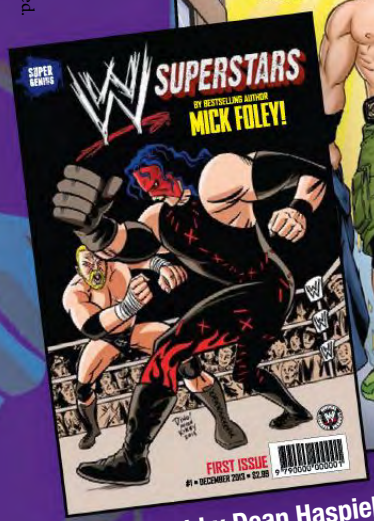
PROP STYLING BY 11TH STREET WORKSHOP; STYLING BY SOFIA KARVELA FOR WWW.AGENTOLIVER.COM; HAIR AND MAKEUP BY KYRA DORMAN FOR ARTISTS BY TIMOTHY PRIANO

™ & © 2013 WWE. All Rights Reserved.



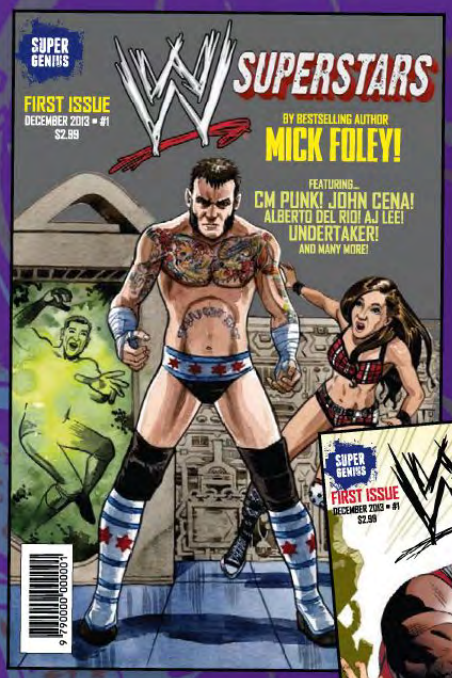
Written by WWE Superstar and NY Times Bestseller MICK FOLEY!

Cover art by Alitha Martinez



Cover art by Dean Haspiel

ALL-NEW WWE COMICS



Cover art by Jill Thompson

CENA! ORTON! PUNK! Laying the smack down in their first comic!

Cover art by Michael Golden

Collect them at your comics store now or at better newstands!

SUPER GENIUS

4 ALTERNATE COVERS!

TO FIND A COMICS STORE NEAR YOU:
1-800-COMICBOOK, COMICSHOPLOCATOR.COM

2013's Big Flops, Catfishes & Fails!

Before you find our picks for the best of the past year in **WWE**—moments we'll remember a lifetime—here's one last look at a few we're hoping to forget.

Just as painful as the Dungeon!

The Can-Dheli Connection
Before her fairy-tale wedding to Tyson Kidd, Natalya was doomed to be Cinderella, slaving away while others had all the fun. Case in point: her odd pairing with The Great Khali. Did they bond over their countries' shared history as British colonies?

The Miz Wears Fandango's Gear
Fandango gets a pass on his flamboyant look because that entrance theme is so catchy. But The Miz? His attempt succeeded in finding the one thing that made us miss his three-quarter Capris from *ECW*.

Big E Dumps Kaitlyn
The Great Catfishing of Kaitlyn culminated in the worst on-screen humiliation since Lisa Simpson broke Ralph Wiggum's heart. And while Kaitlyn would appreciate the reference, the moment was weird, and more than a little uncool.

Show Stops *WWE Battleground*
Members of the WWE Universe were anxious to see a WWE Champion finally crowned at *WWE Battleground*. However, Big Show decided to use that night and the main-event match to pitch a Kanye West-sized tantrum in the middle of the ring, laying out both The Viper and Daniel Bryan.

KICK OFF THE YEAR WITH RAW!

Of late, the year's first *Raw* has earned a reputation for starting off things in style. What will 2014 bring?

THE HITMAN COMETH
January 4, 2010
Bret Hart got (some) closure, and a swift kick in the groin in his first WWE appearance since the Montréal Screwjob.

SO AWESOME
January 3, 2011
The Miz proved he was one tough cookie in this hardcore, PPV-worthy Falls Count Anywhere Match against John Morrison.

KANE ATTACKS
January 2, 2012
The Big Red Monster debuted a new mask and an even more sinister side when he attacked John Cena at *Raw*'s end.

TLC XIV
January 7, 2013
Even an appearance by The Shield couldn't ruin this classic match between CM Punk and Ryback. Just its ending.

Subscribe to MAD!

You'll Never Miss An Issue... and Neither Will Your Bird!

6 Issues for only $19.99

(Cheep! Cheep! Cheep!)

Flock to www.madmagazine.com or call 1-800-4 MAD MAG
6 2 3 6 2 4

Mon–Fri 9 a.m. – 12 a.m. Sat 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Eastern Time
$19.99 offer valid for U.S. and Canada orders only! Foreign orders please add $10.

KEY CODE: AXJMDWW

If under 18, please be sure to get your parrot's permission!

You Got The Mic!

Where readers sound off on the good, the bad and the ugly in WWE. And we give you awesome swag for it!

CHECK OUT PARTS UNKNOWN WWE'S OFFICIAL TUMBLR SITE WWE.TUMBLR.COM

EMAIL US! MAGAZINE@WWE.COM TWEET US! @WWEMAGAZINE FACEBOOK US! FACEBOOK.COM/WWEMAGAZINES

Everyday Henry's hustlin'.

LOOKING BOSS LIKE RICK RO$$!

After 17 years with Mark Henry, you might think you've seen it all. We've seen him drag semis, break records, and stoop us with a fake retirement speech. But this October, he delighted us in a new way. A slim and trim World's Strongest Man got creative this Halloween by bringing rap to the ring with this accurate impersonation of emcee and songwriter Rick Ro$$. We could barely tell the difference! Here's a side-by-side comparison of the two heavy hitters.

Did you dress in WWE gear this year? If so, we want to see it! The coolest costume will win a copy of Best of WWE PPVS *so send your Superstar getup to* **MAGAZINE@WWE.COM!** *No tricks, just treats, we promise.*

She's A Pistol!

Dear *WWE Magazine*,

Rosa mentioned wanting to be a telenovela star in the December issue, but I think she's made for the big screen! I'm curious, what's her favorite movie?

Janet H.; Springfield, IL

Rosa told us she loves American crime dramas, specifically, Goodfellas!

"I know every line from it. It really captures what was going on during that violent time. Those are the types of movies I like to watch, ones that feel real, transport you into the world they're in."

Ask a WWE Superstar

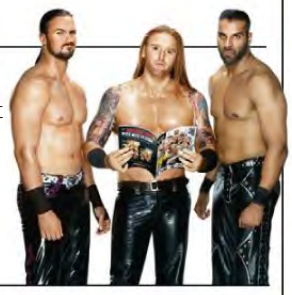
HAVE A QUESTION FOR A SUPERSTAR? LET US KNOW!

Dear 3MB,

My band's morale is way down since our last gig, any advice on how to raise our spirits?

GEORGIA F., OSHKOSH, WI

"Hard to say because everyday is a party for 3MB. But just get together and rock faces, reconnect again through the music."



Champions On Champions!

David Ortiz isn't rocking a replica WWE Championship belt to celebrate the Boston Red Sox's big World Series win; he's got the real thing courtesy of 14-time Champ John Cena!

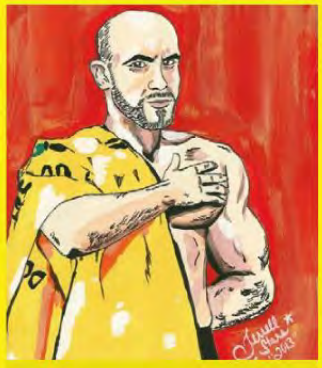
ARTISTS' CORNER

FAN ART OF THE MONTH

We're always seeking unique drawings of Superstars. If you've got the touch, send your work our way!

Email **MAGAZINE@WWE.COM** and we just might publish your doodles! This month, we're giving away *a* copy of *WWE Battleground* on DVD. See Page 74 for more information!

MARK P., via email



TERRELL C., via email

AND THE WINNER IS...

2006'S TEAM DX!

In our Nov. issue, we set up an Ultimate *Survivor Series* Team Tournament, and then asked you (the WWE Universe) to choose the best squad of all time! The results were first revealed exclusively on the WWE App! Congrats, Team DX and Assistant Editor Kayla Parent, who won a pizza party!

ALL SUBMISSIONS BECOME THE PROPERTY OF WWE AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED. YOU REPRESENT THAT YOU (OR AN ENTITY OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY YOU) ARE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE OWNER OF ANY MATERIALS SUBMITTED. IN THE CASE OF JOINT SUBMISSIONS, THE PERSONS SUBMITTING JOINTLY (OR AN ENTITY OR ENTITIES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY SUCH PERSONS) REPRESENT THAT THEY ARE THE EXCLUSIVE OWNERS OF THE MATERIAL. YOU EXPRESSLY GRANT TO WWE A ROYALTY-FREE, NON-EXCLUSIVE, PERPETUAL, UNRESTRICTED AND IRREVOCABLE, WORLDWIDE RIGHT AND LICENSE TO SELL, USE, REPRODUCE, MODIFY, PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE SUCH MATERIALS, INCORPORATE SUCH MATERIALS INTO ANY FORM, MEDIA OR TECHNOLOGY NOW KNOWN OR LATER DEVELOPED FOR ANY PURPOSE OR OTHERWISE UTILIZE SUCH MATERIALS AND YOU WAIVE ANY MORAL RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE IN HAVING THE MATERIAL ALTERED OR CHANGED IN A MANNER NOT AGREEABLE TO YOU. YOU FURTHER GRANT WWE A NON-EXCLUSIVE, WORLDWIDE, ROYALTY-FREE LICENSE TO USE YOUR NAME AND/OR LIKENESS OR THE NAMES OF ANY SUCH ENTITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUBMITTED MATERIAL. PERSONS SUBMITTING MATERIAL TO US (OR ANY ENTITY OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY SUCH PERSONS) REPRESENT THAT THEY HAVE NO REASONABLE BASIS TO BELIEVE THAT THE USE OF ANY SUCH SUBMISSION BY US WOULD INFRINGE UPON THE RIGHTS OF ANY THIRD-PARTY. ROSA MENDES: JASON TANAKA BLANEY; DAVID ORTIZ: BRIAN BABINEAU; RICK ROSS: DAVID GOLDMAN/AP IMAGES; SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

JOINING THE ARMED FORCES
TAKES COURAGE.

RETURNING TO THE WORKFORCE
TAKES HELP.

HIRE HEROES
USA

Help us make returning to the civilian job market easier on our veterans.
Visit www.HireHeroesUSA.org or call 1.866.915.4376

TWWEET US

BY **KAYLA PARENT**

Ask Kofi Kingston...

@TrueKofi

The Wildcat jumps to answer your Twitter questions about the casting of the new Batman, the advice he always gives to the rookies, and the one thing he is better at than everyone else on the roster.

@ What is the last animal you would want to be, out of the entire animal kingdom? Greg V.; Stamford, CT

A snail. It can't do anything else but hide in its soft shell. I'd be working with no kind of offense and a very limited defense.

@ What move do you think has been your most innovative move to date in WWE? Blair E.; Ashley, IN

The ladder stilts I made at *WrestleMania XXVI*. To do it in front of thousands of people was incredibly nerve-racking for me. Hopefully, no one noticed how on edge I was! Literally.

@ What is the best tweet that you've ever put out there? Inky C.; Pleasantville, NY

Ben and Jerry's had a limited edition Red Velvet ice-cream pint, and I tweeted a picture of the one I bought. Within 10 minutes, I had already eaten the entire thing, and I tweeted a picture of that. For some reason my dinner habits are a big hit with my followers, so I indulge them while indulging myself.

@ What advice do you always give rookies when they ask you for it? Tammy F.; Aberdeen, WA

I had a chance to go down to the new WWE Performance Center the other week and talk to the up-and-comers. The main point I tried to get across was to stay positive, and don't give in to the stress and frustration of not getting called up to the main roster.

@ Out of everyone on the roster, whom do you think you have the most in-ring chemistry with? Nella V.; Athol, MA

Dolph Ziggler. We've had about 500 matches at this point, and are almost forced to have that synergy.

@ What are your thoughts on Ben Affleck being chosen to portray the new Batman? Pritchard T.; Plattenville, LA

Everyone seems to be upset, and I'm not. They wouldn't cast a character as big as Batman the wrong way, and all of his new work has been stellar. There's a big difference between the old Ben Affleck, and the new one, and it should be all good.

@ Outside of the ring, what are you better at than anyone else on the roster? Brad F.; Sacramento, CA

I can beat anyone on Xbox Live. My passion for video games has done me well over the years, and there's no one on the roster or anywhere that can beat me. Doesn't matter what game it is. There are a few Superstars who don't even want to play with me anymore.

@ What is your plan for the future, when you decide to retire? Dan B.; Reno, NV

My main goal is to save as much money as possible here, so by the time it's all said and done, I can do whatever I want. I have no idea what that will be, as being a Superstar is my only focus right now. I will say that I will be working for myself, and not anyone else.

@ Who are your biggest influences outside of WWE? Frank Q.; Naples, IL

My high-school wrestling coach, because he taught me discipline. It's one of my best qualities, and I would never have gotten to where I am today without it.

GOT A BURNING QUESTION?

→ In the coming months we'll be soliciting Twitter questions for Fandango, Cody Rhodes and Goldust. Fire off your best queries on any subject to: **@WWEmagazine**. Who knows? If your questions are interesting enough, one of them just might make it into *WWE Magazine*! And you thought the Web was just for Bad Lip Reading videos.

WWE GOES PINK!

The Superstars and Divas join the fight against breast cancer!

@StephMcMahon
@WWECommunity: @WWE Goes pink with @SusanGKomen. We are proud to support in the fight against cancer.

@KaitlynWWE
Support 2 great causes. Breast cancer research and the #8thMilitia. Pink is in this month!

@JohnCena
Folks, take 2min today and learn how to change your future. #GoPink take the pledge. #riseabovecancer.

@NatbyNature
I'm so inspired by Maggie @Nationwide Children's hospital today. Such a brave little girl. #riseabovecancer.

@ZackRyder
GET THE GEAR. JOIN THE FIGHT. WWE & Susan G. Komen are Teaming Up Against Breast Cancer.

@TitusONeilWWE
Very emotional Day 4me at @ WWE #RAW but was a great way 2Tribute My Grandmother.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIUS BUGGE

BODY SHOP

Power Up!

Build explosive strength and power with this total-body circuit, demonstrated by The Shield's **Roman Reigns.**

"I hate getting stuck in one routine, so I mix in difficult workout styles or lifts. I'll even throw in a little bit of CrossFit or something entirely different, too. The main thing is always to be switching, so you can shock your body into getting better results." —Roman Reigns

The explosiveness needed to deliver a stomach-destroying Spear like the one employed by **Roman Reigns** requires great amounts of strength and power. "This workout focuses on both these qualities by using both upper- and lower-body plyometrics as well as big, compound lifts with smaller repetition ranges," says trainer Dan Trink, CSCS—*peakperformancenyc.com*. "The goal of which is to improve your overall strength-to-body-weight ratio." First things first—explode off your keister and get going!

BY **MAX BAKKE**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JASON TANAKA BLANEY

1

CHEST DIPS

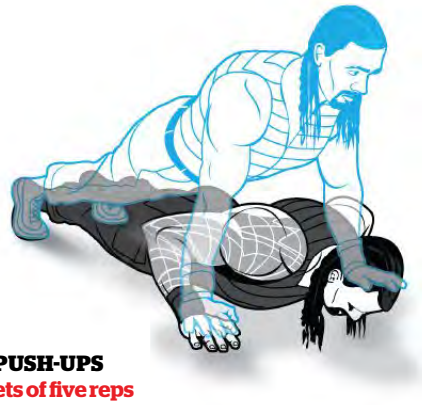
Three sets of as many reps as possible

Hold your body up at arms length above the set of parallel bars with your legs crossed behind you. Breathe in, and lower yourself slowly until your elbows form a 90-degree angle. Reverse the motion and breath out, using your chest to bring your entire body back to the start. Squeeze your chest at the top of the rep.

2A

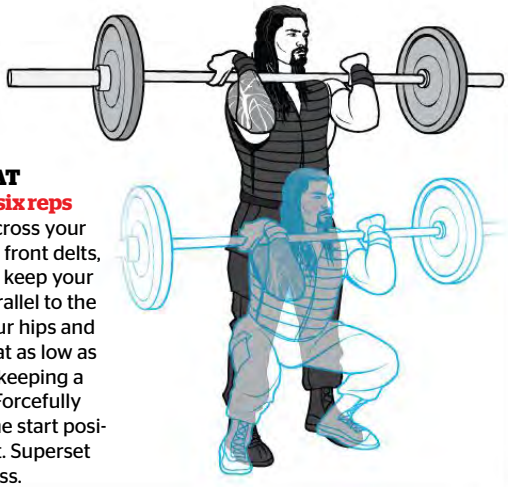
BOX JUMPS
Four sets of five reps
Set your feet with both knees bent and hips and arms back. Now, jump from the floor, landing on the top of the box. Do not step into the jump—you want your feet to begin in a static position. The goal is to land softly with flexed knees and hips back. Don't buckle your knees on landing. Superset with plyo push-ups.

2B



PLYO PUSH-UPS
Four sets of five reps
For an advanced chest blast, start at the top push-up position and slowly lower yourself towards the ground, keeping your elbows tucked toward your ribs. When you reach your bottom position, explosively drive the floor so your hands come off the ground. Land with soft elbows to absorb impact and immediately descend into the next rep. If you're more advanced, you can try to add a clap while your hands are in the air, or touch your chest with your palms.

3A



BARBELL FRONT SQUAT
Three sets of six reps
Rack the bar across your collarbone and front delts, making sure to keep your upper arms parallel to the floor. Hinge your hips and knees and squat as low as possible while keeping a vertical torso. Forcefully drive up into the start position and repeat. Superset with bench press.

3B

INCLINE DUMBBELL BENCH PRESS
Three sets of six reps
Set an incline bench to an angle between 30 and 45 degrees. Begin with dumbbells placed in front of your shoulders with your arms extended. Lower the weight to your chest while keeping your elbows tucked in tight at your ribs. Drive the weight back to the start position and repeat.

GET TACTICAL!

With this combat-inspired fitness gear, the only thing left you'll need is the Blackhawk.

TACTICAL SANDBAGS
Lifting, carrying and tossing a heavy sandbag are among the best ways to develop functional strength. These military-tough bags can take a Spear and not burst. That's durable.
$45-$90; *roguefitness.com*

IRONSKULL KETTLEBELL
Not only will a kettlebell in your bag equal 1,000 exercises, but if you're not working out with Seth Rollins and Dean Ambrose, the skulls sculpted into these KBs will warn everyone else to step off.
$65-135; *ironskullfitness.com*

TRX FORCE: TACTICAL SUSPENSION TRAINER
This go-anywhere trainer has gotten a Navy SEAL-inspired makeover. And at 1.5 pounds, you can pack in your vest and cargo pants for when you're working out in a helicopter.
$300; *trxtraining.com*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY PETE SUCHESKI; PROP STYLING BY 11TH STREET WORKSHOP; GROOMING BY KYRA DORMAN FOR ARTISTS BY TIMOTHY PRIANO

BY **KAYLA PARENT** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MARIUS BUGGE**

DIVA OF THE MONTH

Kaitlyn 3:16 Says...

WWE's **Hybrid Diva** opens up a can of straight talk about fellow Texan **Stone Cold Steve Austin**, her thoughts on office romances, and the McMahon family member she'd love a chance to take on in the ring.

1. What was it about Stone Cold Steve Austin that allowed him to connect with the crowd so easily?
He wasn't playing a part, didn't have any crazy gear, he just represented the people, and we all loved that. Plus, who doesn't admire a guy who can stand up to his boss?

2. Would you rather drive a Zamboni or a beer truck to the ring?
Neither, I'd add a third option and go with a cement truck. That would be the best choice if you really wanted to ruin someone's day.

3. You're given a huge, three-match saga at *'Mania* against anyone—who is your opponent?
Stephanie McMahon! I'd love to see our names in lights together because she seems untouchable now, and it would be epic if we could bring back memories of the Austin vs. McMahon rivalry with Kaitlyn vs. McMahon.

4. What is one thing that never fails to make you go Stone Cold?
AJ Lee. It's all mental with her. Her little taunts and mocking comments really get under my skin, and she ends up making me look like the crazy one.

5. Who did you hope was your secret admirer, which turned out to be Big E Langston?
I was hoping for either a gentleman, or someone who knew how to work a leather jacket. Or just anyone who wouldn't drop me on my face during live television.

6. What does "Don't Mess With Texas" mean to you?
When you're from Texas, you're just allowed to say that. You're basically telling everyone else they really don't want to get into it with the toughest state in America, or anyone who's from there!

7. Tell us: What is your most prized possession in the whole world?
If there was a fire and I had to grab one thing, I wouldn't be able to choose. No object means more to me than another. I cherish the intangible: my family, friends, and my memories.

8. What's one thing you always warn potential suitors about?
I do not date anyone I don't know well, so guys usually know exactly what they're getting into when it comes to me. But anyone who wants to date me has to accept my extremely sarcastic personality, and my razor-sharp competitive streak. Game on!

9. Do you believe in office romances?
They are hard to stay away from, but I think any and all office romances are a recipe for disaster, and rarely ever end well. Sorry, guys.

10. We're curious—how did your last New Year's resolution turn out for you?
I better myself every day, not just on January 1st. I like to deal in accomplishments, and this year, I got my first action figure, debuted in my first video game, and won my first Championship. Thanks, 2013!

11. What do you think is the coolest thing you've done for the WWE Divas roster so far?
I made it acceptable to be something other than a cookie-cutter prototype for the women in this business. I know there are a few who claim something similar, but do those ladies also look good with two different colors in their hair?

12. And, last but not least, what would Kaitlyn 3:16 say?
I just Speared your dreams...and your reproductive organs.

JANUARY IN WWE

*Turn here first to find out when the Superstars will be in your town next!**

1	New Year's Day
2	
3	WWE Live Event, Fayetteville, NC; 7:30PM
4	WWE Live Event, Greensboro, NC; 7:30PM WWE Live Event, Hampton, VA; 7:30PM
5	WWE Live Event, Roanoke, VA; 5:00PM WWE Live Event, Fairfax, VA; 5:00PM
6	Raw, Baltimore, MD; 7:30PM
7	SmackDown, Philadelphia, PA; 7:00PM
8	
9	
10	WWE Live Event, Wilkes Barre, PA; 7:30PM
11	WWE Live Event, Glens Falls, NY; 7:30PM WWE Live Event, Buffalo, NY 7:30PM
12	WWE Live Event, White Plains, NY; 5:00PM WWE Live Event, Montreal, Canada; 5:00PM
13	Raw, Providence, RI; 7:30PM
14	SmackDown, Worcester, MA; 7:00PM
15	*TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs 2013* on sale now!
16	
17	WWE Live Event, St. Louis, MO; 7:30PM
18	WWE Live Event, Cincinnati, OH; 7:30PM WWE Live Event, Hammond, IN 7:30PM
19	WWE Live Event, Columbus, OH; 5:00PM WWE Live Event, Kalamazoo, MI; 5:00PM
20	Raw, Dayton, OH; 7:30PM
21	SmackDown, Grand Rapids, MI; 7:00PM
22	
23	
24	WWE Live Event, State College, PA; 7:30PM
25	WWE Live Event, Reading, PA; 7:30PM WWE Live Event, Canton, OH 7:30PM
26	**Royal Rumble**, Pittsburgh, PA; 7:30PM
27	Raw, Cleveland, OH; 7:30PM
28	SmackDown, Toledo, OH; 7:00PM
29	*Best of Raw & SmackDown 2013* in stores now!
30	
31	WWE Live Event, Miami, FL; 7:30PM

FOR MORE OF THE STUNNING KAITLYN: Visit **WWE.COM/MAGAZINE/DIVA-OF-MONTH** to see exclusive photos!

**All show times are regional and subject to change*

STYLING BY SOFIA KARVELA FOR WWW.AGENTOLIVER.COM; HAIR AND MAKEUP BY KYRA DORMAN FOR ARTISTS BY TIMOTHY PRIANO; VEST BY LEATHER UP, TOP BY AMERICAN APPAREL, BOTTOMS BY ASOS, NECKLACE BY TRASH AND VAUDVILLE, CUFF BY PATRICIA FIELD

"Anyone who wants to date me has to accept my razor-sharp competitive streak."
—Kaitlyn

>KNOWLEDGE

WWE QUIZ

What Do You Know About... *WWE Debuts*?
First impressions are everything, and for an excited, eager Superstar or Diva, a first night out can make or break an entire career! Here are 10 questions about who made an impact during their first night in the ring, and who unintentionally fell flat...literally. Curtains up—it's go time!

ROCKY! ROCKY! ROCKY!

1 ***On the night of his debut at 1996's* Survivor Series, *the future People's Champ became the Sole Survivor for his winning team. Can you pick out the members of Rocky's squad from the Superstars shown below?***

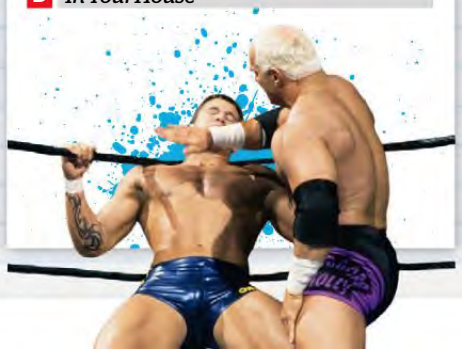
?

2 True or False? Chris Jericho, also known as Y2J, debuted on New Year's Eve 1999 on *Raw* once the millennium countdown ran out.

?

3 Randy Orton made his in-ring debut against Hardcore Holly. On which of the shows below did that occur?

A *Raw*
B *SmackDown*
C *Velocity*
D *In Your House*



4 Which future WWE Hall of Famer was being viciously attacked when Rey Mysterio scaled a steel cage and leapt off its top on the *SmackDown* of his debut?

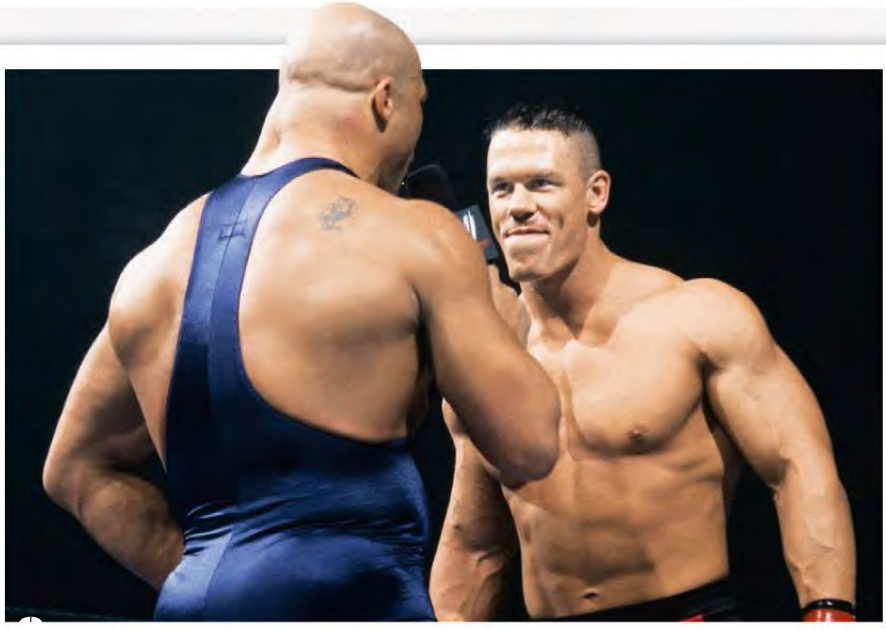
?

5 **WHO AM I?** The iconic and legendary Undertaker debuted at 1990's *Survivor Series* and joined up with The Dream Team. During that match, on whom did he perform his very first Tombstone?

?

6 Steve Blackman's debut ended with him being escorted to jail. Which Superstar did he first attempt to help, and who was he being attacked by?

- A Vader; Hart Foundation
- B Bret Hart; Owen Hart
- C Flash Funk; The Hardy Boys
- D Bob Holly; Brooklyn Brawler



8 When John Cena answered an open challenge from Kurt Angle during his 2002 debut, what quality did the future leader of the Cenation cite himself to have?

- A Ruthless Aggression
- B Desire to Dominate
- C Unparalleled Skill
- D Brutal Intelligence

7 Fill in the blanks: Kane debuted in __A__ at __B__ to confront Undertaker. After Tombstoning said brother, __C__ won the match, allowing him to win __D__.

- A
- B
- C
- D

9 **UNSCRAMBLE ME!** When I made my debut entrance, I tripped over a two-by-four and fell on my face, losing my helmet in the process?

HET RETMASCHOKS

10 During his April 2007 debut in Milan, Italy, Santino Marella won his first match against Umaga with some assistance from Bobbly Lashley. Which WWE championship was on the line?

- A United States
- B WWE Tag Team
- C Intercontinental
- D Cruiserweight

RATING SCALE

TIME'S UP! *How'd you do? Are you traveling around on a customized bus, or are you waiting on a delayed flight? Match your responses to the correct answers below to see where you rank in terms of WWE Universe intelligence.*

0 - 2

LOCAL COMPETITOR

3 - 4

NXT ROOKIE

5 - 7

TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

8 - 9

INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION

10

WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

ANSWERS

1. MARC MERO. JAKE ROBERTS, THE STALKER. 2. FALSE. HE DEBUTED ON AUGUST 9TH, 1999. 3. B. 4. EDGE. 5. KOKO B. WARE. 6. A. 7. A. 1997. 8. BADD BLOOD. C. SHAWN MICHAELS. D. NO. 1 CONTENDER-SHIP TO THE WWE TITLE. 8. A. 9. THE SHOCKMASTER. 10. C

RINGSIDE
COLLECTIBLES
WRESTLINGFIGURES.COM
1-866-993-FIGURES
WWE® ELITE 27
ROB VAN DAM, FANDANGO, BILLY GUNN, UNDERTAKER, KOFI KINGSTON & RIKISHI
WWE® SERIES 37
WRESTLEMANIA HERITAGE
ZEB COLTER, ROMAN REIGNS, RYBACK, RANDY ORTON, MR. PERFECT & BATISTA
COMING SOON!
WWE® SERIES 36
WWE® SERIES 35
DELUXE DISPLAY STANDS
WWE® DELUXE DISPLAY STANDS
WWE® BATTLE PACKS 26
BROCK LESNAR & PAUL HEYMAN
STRETCHER!
MARK HENRY vs RYBACK
TRASHCAN!
CM PUNK vs DEPTAKFED
URN!
WWE® BATTLE PACKS 25
10% OFF
USE CODE:
NEWYEAR
WRESTLINGFIGURES.COM
1-866-993-FIGURES
™ & © 2013 WWE
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

RINGSIDE
COLLECTIBLES
WRESTLINGFIGURES.COM
1-866-993-FIGURES
WWE® ELITE 26
WWE® ELITE 25
WWE® ELITE 24
WWE® ELITE 23
"HERE COMES THE PAIN"
BROCK LESNAR
ELITE FLASHBACK RINGSIDE EXCLUSIVE
WWE® 25 PACK
DISPLAY STANDS
25 DISPLAY STANDS
WWE® CHAMPIONSHIP
WWE® INTERCONTINENTAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
WRESTLINGFIGURES.COM
1-866-993-FIGURES
™ & © 2013 WWE
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

THE 2013

WWE MAGAZINE AWARDS

From the rise of The Authority and the redemption of Rock vs. Cena II to the continuation of "The Streak" and the following of the buzzards, 2013 may be the biggest year WWE's seen yet. We've given careful consideration to each and every award here. Some you'll agree with; others will have you calling for our jobs on Twitter. And now we proudly present your winners (and losers)!

BY **JEFF LABOON** AND **MAX BAKKE**
DIGITAL IMAGING BY **ERIC HEINTZ**

John Cena

THE FACE OF WWE

Probably the only person on the WWE roster who doesn't talk about being the "Face of WWE" is John Cena. That's because he's busy actually doing what it takes to carry the company on his broad shoulders. In the 11 years since his debut, Cena turned saying and doing the right things from a gimmick into a way of life. He's the man who everyone on the roster, whether they admit it, wants to be. It's almost not fair that he makes it look as easy as he does.

Alberto Del Rio

JERK OF THE YEAR

There have been some bad dudes in WWE this year. Names that come to mind easily are Triple H, Randy Orton, Paul Heyman and so many others. But few Superstars are as comfortable in their meanness as Alberto Del Rio. As a hero, he looked like a child wearing an uncomfortable suit. But as a bad guy, he's as happy as a pig in a Hog Pen Match. That's the true mark of badness.

"I'm back to being the great Alberto Del Rio I always was. I'm the best villain in the company. I'm the best wrestler in the company. No one is a match for Alberto Del Rio."
—ALBERTO DEL RIO

Zeb Colter

FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

Zeb Colter came onto the scene in 2013 with cutting remarks for anyone who didn't fit his description of a "Real American." He even challenged outspoken political personality Glenn Beck! We don't always agree with everything he says, but we'll damn sure support his Constitutional right to say it.

5
The number of *SummerSlams* held (to date) at Los Angeles's STAPLES Center.

Daniel Bryan vs. John Cena; *SummerSlam*, 8/18/13

Match of the Year

This match wasn't just for the WWE Championship: It was a referendum on what it means to be a Superstar in WWE in 2013. In one corner was Daniel Bryan, the Indies-tested underdog who had to scrape and claw for his spot. But in the other was John Cena, the face of WWE who looked and acted like the modern Superstar. This physical, emotional fight epitomized everything we love about WWE.

"That was the first time I truly main-evented a WWE event—and it was against the face of the company. People want to see a contest: two guys they like squaring off to see who's best. I think John Cena and I gave them that at SummerSlam*."*
—DANIEL BRYAN

Damien Sandow Swims After His MITB Briefcase

FUNNIEST MOMENT

***SmackDown*, 7/26/13**
Damien Sandow knows a lot, but not how to swim. So when Cody Rhodes launched his Money In The Bank briefcase into the Gulf of Mexico, Sandow pathetically doggy-paddled after it. We might feel sorry for him, but when you call everyone an "ignoramus," it's hard for them to sympathize.

"Knowing that Damien is not a strong swimmer and knowing how gosh-filthy the water there was in the bay, I would have never imagined he would have the bravado to do such a thing. It made my day because it was like watching a horror movie."
—CODY RHODES

The Prime Time Players On Any Sized Screen

BEST USE OF THE WWE APP

No one shines brighter online than this tag team. If the app wasn't free already, we'd say it's worth millions of dollars.

"We take pride in being one of the most entertaining tag teams and personalities collectively and individually that this company has to offer. Our job is to bring it. The PTP didn't land on the WWE App, the WWE App landed on The PTP."
—THE PRIME TIME PLAYERS

5/13/13
The date AJ Lee unveiled her punishing finisher, the Black Widow.

AJ Lee

Diva of the Year

While the rest of the Divas bickered about boyfriends and go-karts on *Total Divas*, AJ Lee continued her dominant streak as Divas Champion. And not only did she wipe the floor with opponents in the ring, but she also did it on the mic, delivering a scathing promo on the *Total Divas* cast in August. This is her second Diva of the Year award. And with no challengers in sight, this Black Widow will likely stand atop her peers for yet another 12 months.

"Last year, I said 'It can only get downhill from here.' I didn't think it would get better than that. So to keep it going, is amazing. Sometimes you wonder if things are going to be like a flash in the pan. The hardest thing to do here is stay relevant. We're doing something great, and that's pretty awesome."
—AJ LEE

Big E Langston

SOCIAL-MEDIA SUPERSTAR OF THE YEAR/ BEST TWEETER

"A good Tweet is something that everyone can understand. I try to make myself laugh and go from there. People don't expect me to be funny or clever, so that gives me a big leg up."

Triple H & Randy Orton Conspire Against Daniel Bryan At *SummerSlam*

SCREWJOB OF THE YEAR

The childlike joy the WWE Universe experienced when Daniel Bryan defeated John Cena was quickly replaced by a cynical rage after Triple H attacked the new champ and allowed Randy Orton to cash in his Money In The Bank contract. It left a bitter taste in everyone's mouth that isn't going to go away until we see Bryan atop WWE's pecking order as champion again.

The Usos

BEST NEW LOOK

Jimmy & Jey Uso wanted an extra edge over the rest of WWE's tag team division, so the brothers started wearing Polynesian-styled face paint in tribute to their uncle Umaga. That and their Siva Tau entrance have given the brothers a hell of a cultural boost.

Daniel Bryan

SUPERSTAR OF THE YEAR

There was a time during 2013 when Daniel Bryan was torturing himself over being a "weak link." Now, we'd be lost without his (bearded) face on *Raw*. He's that integral to WWE right now. Bryan's had his critics, and none have been bigger and louder than the new "Authority." Despite all the obstacles they've put in front of him, he's knocked them down with his vicious running knee. He may not be the new "Face of WWE" but he's definitely the most fun part of it. The year 2013 was about Daniel Bryan becoming a Superstar. Let's hope 2014 is the year he becomes a "mega" one.

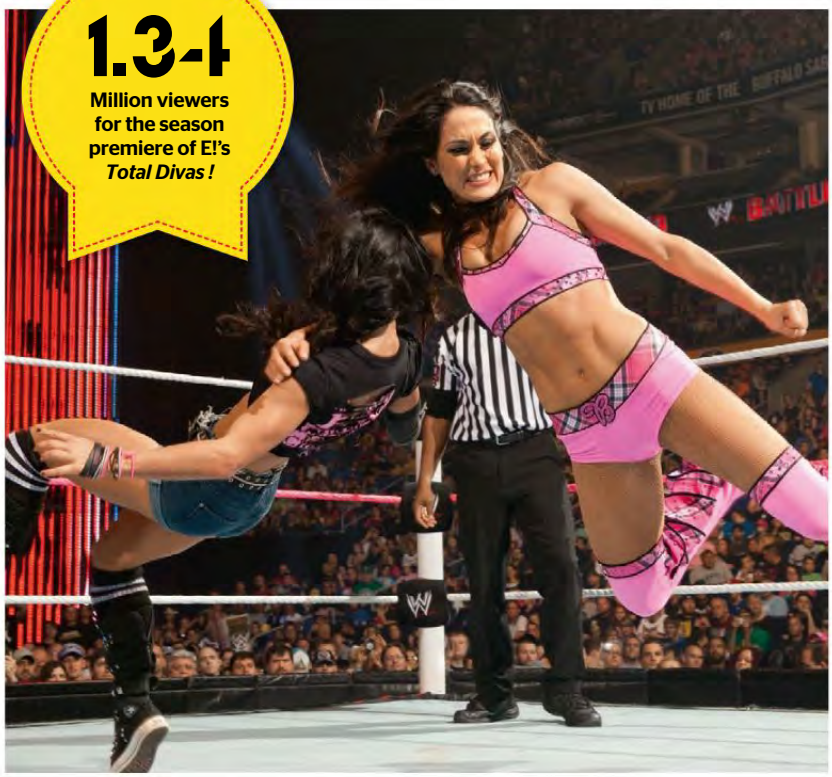
"The highlight of 2013 for me was defeating John Cena for the WWE Championship in the main event at SummerSlam. *That was the high-point of my career. It's awesome to be in that event. That was a dream for me since I was a little kid. And* SummerSlam *was always my favorite pay-per-view event."*
—DANIEL BRYAN

Randy Orton Breaks Bad

BEST RETURN TO FORM

The sadistic, remorseless side of Randy Orton returned in 2013 after years of him suppressing his true self. The Viper sided with The Authority at *SummerSlam* to become the new "Face of WWE" and left many Superstars lying in his path along the way.

"Being a bad guy is just more fun. Otherwise you worry too much about what the fans think of you. It's a worry I don't like to have. I'd rather be myself and explore different ways I can make people feel uneasy even just by walking by and glaring at them."
—RANDY ORTON



1.3-1
Million viewers for the season premiere of E!'s *Total Divas!*

The Bellas

Comeback(s) of the Year

If there's one thing the WWE Universe loves almost as much as dance contests, it's twins. Nikki and Brie Bella brought back some much needed twin magic in 2013, both in the ring—with Brie's chase for the Divas Championship—and on E!'s hit show, *Total Divas*—with their wood-chopping competitions.

Sheamus

WARRIOR OF THE YEAR

The Celtic Warrior put everything on the line at *Money In The Bank*, even fighting through injuries. But more impressively, Sheamus defeated Jack Swagger days later despite his bum shoulder. He deserves a lot of credit for his grit and toughness. We call out of work whenever we have a case of the sniffles.

Roman Reigns's Spear

MOST DEVASTATING MOVE

Roman Reigns played defensive tackle in college, so the guy knows how to give a devastating Spear. Superstars of all sizes, even Big Show and The Great Khali, have felt his powerful Spear. It'll take you out of your shoes, and the lunch out of your stomach.

"I didn't start playing football in college. I've been hitting people since I was seven years old. And I've always been the biggest, the fastest and the strongest guy out there. There's a reason my Spear is the baddest maneuver in WWE—it's because I've been doing it since birth."
—ROMAN REIGNS

Goldust

"You Still Got It" Award

9
Number of Hardcore Title reigns enjoyed by Goldust—one of the most in WWE history.

"I've been busting my butt in the gym, and staying focused, because that's what it's about. I know that I can still go with the youngest and the best Superstars on the roster right now. The Royal Rumble was very special. And nothing touched it, until my brother and I became Tag Team Champions. I've been wrestling for 25 years and that might be the biggest moment of my career."
—GOLDUST

Stephanie McMahon

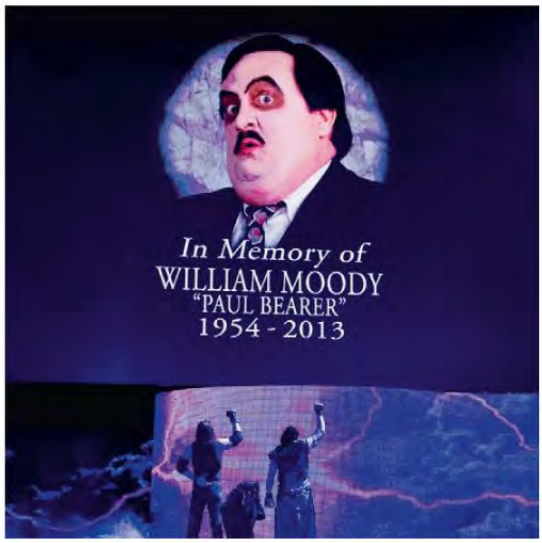
INSULT OF THE YEAR

"B+ Player"
***Raw*, 8/19**
Stephanie McMahon totally burned Daniel Bryan the night after Randy Orton ended his minutes-long WWE Championship reign at *SummerSlam*, saying Bryan wasn't quite an "A" but a "solid B+" player. It was as if she was reading from a performance review. It hurt to watch, Bryan, because we've all been there.

Kane & Undertaker Salute Paul Bearer

MOST EMOTIONAL MOMENT

Kane and Undertaker honored their longtime manager with The Phenom's signature salute directed at Paul Bearer. These Brothers of Destruction haven't always been on the same side, but it was heartwarming to see that some things are bigger than rivalries.



Cody Rhodes To The Future

THE SUPERSTAR TO WATCH FOR IN 2014

After an emotional 2013, Cody Rhodes will own 2014. With the WWE Universe squarely in his corner, there's no stopping him.

"I was wearing a shirt that said 'Rhodes to the Future' for several years. I don't need to wait forever. And to be less vague, that means the WWE or World Heavyweight Title."
—CODY RHODES

Bray Wyatt, Luke Harper & Erick Rowan

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

We remain fascinated by The Wyatt Family, and especially by its charismatic leader, Bray Wyatt. He's a mix of Max Cady, Waylon Mercy and *Justified*'s Boyd Crowder. Together, that makes him all awesome.

"I want to make an impact so astonishing that they can't stop me from reoccurring in their minds. In my case, eradicate their greatest fear only to replace it with a new one. If the WWE Universe says they didn't notice me, they simply do not have eyes."
—BRAY WYATT

CM Punk

MOST CONTROVERSIAL

From juggling and fumbling Paul Bearer's urn to dumping its contents on Undertaker, CM Punk dropped jaws on a weekly basis with his mind games on The Road to *WrestleMania*. Then he disappeared, only to emerge again in June, with a leaner, but less meaner, look. That was, until he was betrayed by Paul Heyman. Whether we're loving him, or hating him, or hating to love him, CM Punk is always there to keep us guessing. He gets all our props for that.

288

Number of days that CM Punk was officially a "Paul Heyman Guy."

Ryback

Bully of the Year

We don't think we're breaking any big scoop in this feature when we tell you that this Ryback guy, he's kind of a jerk. This dude's been picking on catering employees, local talent and Hornswoggle. He's the one guy on the roster who can make us feel sorry for Heath Slater. Almost.

"I find it humorous that people look at me and call me a bully. I give people an opportunity to show courage. It's something our country lacks. It's a chance to go from being a boy to a man. To be called a bully is very unjust in my mind."
—RYBACK

Daniel Bryan & "YES!"

CATCHPHRASE OF THE YEAR

"I never imagined this would be anything more than what it is, but it's truly taken on a life of its own that people are chanting it all the time—even when I'm not in the ring. It's really cool that one word can become a catchphrase."

Best Promo

MARK HENRY

Sporting a flamingo-colored jacket, Mark Henry gave a heartbreaking retirement speech during the 6/17/13 edition of *Raw* about his plans to spend more time with his children. He fooled everyone, especially John Cena...

"A small town, Silsbee, Texas, boy done proud. ...I got a chance to travel the world, twice, three times, quadruple times over. Don't cry for me, Argentina, I'm doing enough crying for the both of us. But I stand before you a proud, proud man."
—MARK HENRY

Kaitlyn

BEST HAIR

Kaitlyn's hairdo started a trend in 2013. Even Seth Rollins is two-toned! And although it's changed, it's still fantastic. "This award is unexpected," Kaitlyn says. "And awesome! I never thought that I would end up with two—so polar opposite—colors of hair and it would work so well. I think it represents me as a person. I feel like hair is who you are, what you show the world, and having super hair is awesome and helps people learn about you. But you never know what's next for me."

Kane

BEST FRIEND OF THE YEAR

When Daniel Bryan blamed himself for Team Hell No's failures, Kane did everything to keep his teammate's spirits high, insisting their losses were team ones and not just Bryan's fault. So The Big Red Monster may be a psychopath who can control fire with his mind, but he's a damn good friend.

Jack Swagger

10

Jack Swagger is the tenth superstar, to date, to win an Elimination Chamber Match.

Most Improved Superstar

The Real American's career returned reinvigorated in 2013, defeating Randy Orton to win the Elimination Chamber and challenge for the World Title at *WrestleMania*. That spark came also from his new "friend" Zeb Colter, whose fiery rhetoric is almost as intense as Swagger's aggressive style.

"I want to thank everyone in America who has done nothing, who has sat idly by and let our country fall into the shape that it's in. Without them, there'd be no need for Jack Swagger. There'd be no need for Zeb Colter. We had no other choice to act how we act, and say what we have to say because of it." ***—JACK SWAGGER***

Big Show

HARDEST HITTER

Big Show's fist doesn't discriminate. It'll take out our heroes, our villains and even our legends (sorry, Dusty). There are lots of punches you don't want to be on the receiving end of, and this one is at the top of our list.

"It's an honor to be in a business with heavy hitters like Mark Henry, Ryback, Brock Lesnar and Sheamus. But I'll have to say there's been nothing sweeter this year than punching out Triple H. He was definitely the most deserving of a knockout." —BIG SHOW

3MB

BEST BROCK LESNAR FOOD

A raucous "You suck!" chant for 3MB on the 4/15 *Raw*, ended with a roar as Brock Lesnar manhandled the "band," satiating his beastly appetite for destruction. So much for the advantage. 3MB proved that, as long as Heath Slater is leading your entourage, there's no such thing as strength in numbers.

Damien Sandow

BREAKOUT SUPERSTAR OF THE YEAR

The newfound vicious side of The Intellectual Savior of the Masses earned him a Money In The Bank contract and vaulted him into the World Heavyweight Title picture at the expense of Team Rhodes Scholars. His cash-in didn't go as well as we'd expect from the so-called genius, but who knows? If anyone is going to learn more from defeat than victory, it's this know-it-all.

"I've been called a failure because of what happened with John Cena. I laugh at that. You all see things in one dimension. How do you know what's part of my plan? The only definite is that I am still your uncrowned World Heavyweight Champion."
—DAMIEN SANDOW

The Shield

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

"There's no other group in WWE that can know what their partners are thinking and feeling, but we can. We're a team with no egos. We understand our jobs. We all have something to do, and we get it done. Even if that's to sacrifice yourself for the team." ***—DEAN AMBROSE***

"We brought competition up, raised the bar and set a new standard for the tag team division. All other teams owe us a thank you. The Shield took over. Of course tag team wrestling spiked because of us." ***—ROMAN REIGNS***

"No team is a match for us, and we prove it on Raw, *pay-per-views and live events. We came in as long shots, but we've dominated since day one. It's tough to do that for a year, but that's what we did."* ***—SETH ROLLINS***

223
Total number of days that Alberto Del Rio held the World Heavyweight Championship.

Alberto Del Rio Attacks Ricardo Rodriguez

Breakup of the Year

These two made such a good pair that it's an absolute shame that they had to go their separate ways after Alberto Del Rio attacked Ricardo Rodriguez during the 8/5/13 edition of *Raw*. We really can't imagine Ricardo rolling his "Rs" for anyone else in WWE. And that's a huge bummer.

"It definitely hurt. This was a relationship that lasted years. It came out of nowhere for me. He lost his friend, and his Championship, but at least he has this." ***—RICARDO RODRIGUEZ***

"Ricardo betrayed me, and his own people. I'm the hero, and he turned on us all. I had to give him what he deserved. We will never be friends again." ***—ALBERTO DEL RIO***

Alberto Del Rio vs. Big Show

MOST OVERLOOKED MATCH

Big Show and Alberto Del Rio set the bar high for 2013 with an instant classic Last Man Standing Match on the 1/11/13 *SmackDown*. It conjured up memories of Rocky Balboa, as the underdog Del Rio won the World Heavyweight Title.

Antonio Cesaro Swings The Great Khali; *WWE Battleground*

JAWDROPPING MOMENT OF THE YEAR

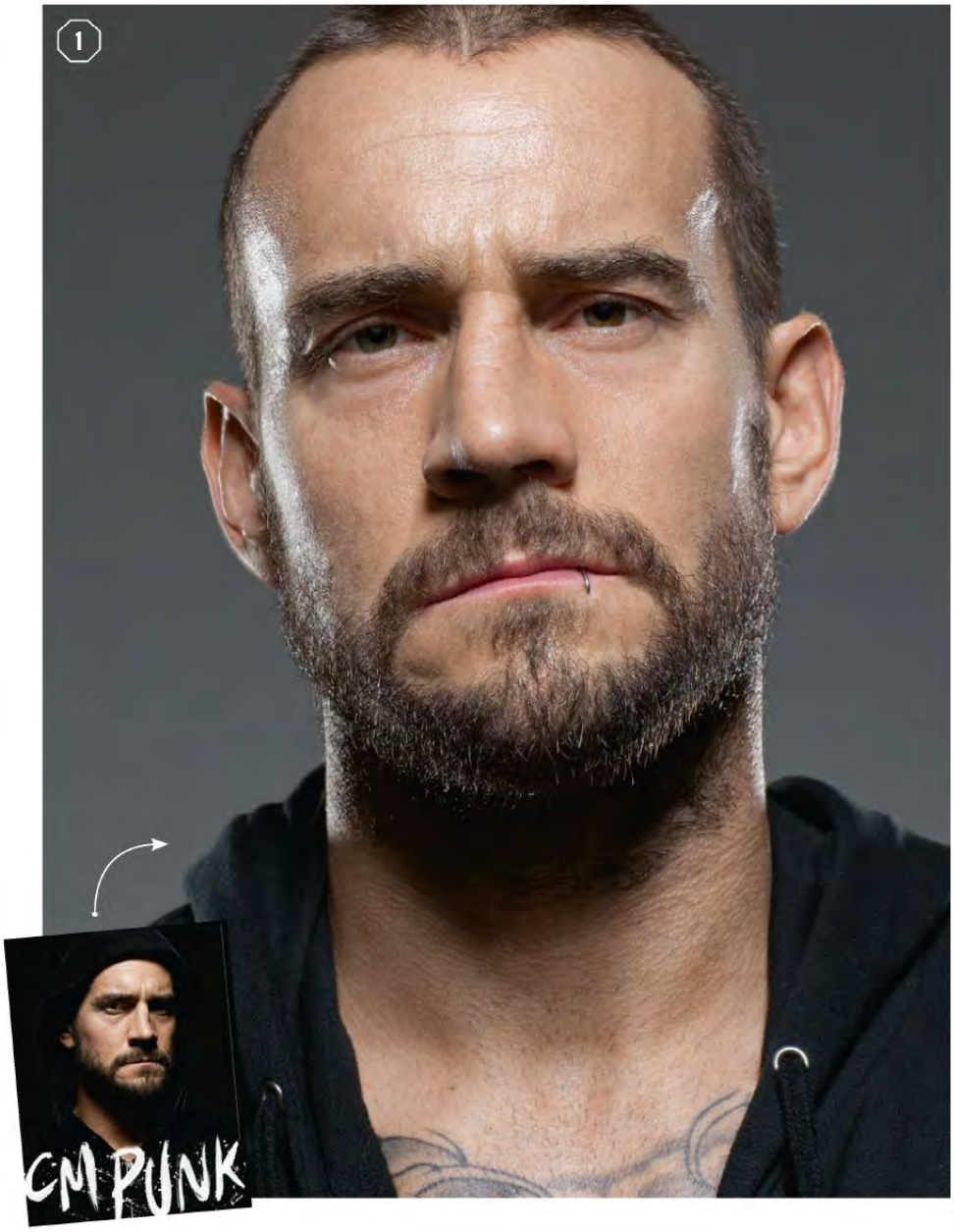
Fifteen seconds. That's how long Antonio Cesaro kept the seven-foot Great Khali off the ground for this Cesaro Swing. It was a moment so impressive, we got dizzy just watching it.

Kofi Kingston

MOST UNDERRATED

No one can match Kofi Kingston's in-ring skills. His ability to adjust styles on the fly makes him a constant threat to opponents. Even elbow surgery couldn't keep Kingston down. If you're not on board the Kofi Kingston bandwagon, you're not watching *Raw* closely enough.

"I don't really care what people think about me. I think if someone's underrated, that they're under appreciated. I'm fully confident in my abilities. I know every night, in my mind, that I'm going to have a good match. People feel underrated when they think they're not getting the credit they deserve. That's why I don't care that much about what people think." —Kofi Kingston



[THE 2013]

OUTTAKES

Every few months we pack our bags, wave goodbye to Titan Tower and hit the road to photograph the Superstars and Divas for the pages of this magazine. We take tons of pictures but for various reasons some don't make the cut. Here are a few of our favorites that deserved to see the light of day. Enjoy!

1 *Lafayette, LA; 2/18/13*

CM PUNK. A bruised, battered and uncustomarily quiet Punk didn't speak a single word while standing on set for this poster. He just glared.

2 *Wichita, KS; 5/14/13*

DAMIEN SANDOW. Welcome to WWEmerica! Sandow began to pontificate, but eventually pointed that finger at us just like Uncle Sam.

3 *New Orleans, LA; 2/17/13 Outtake*

BRODUS CLAY. The problem with shooting The Funkasaurus and an actual dinosaur's skull is that we'd have to rob a museum to do so.

4 *Austin, TX; 8/14/12 Outtake*

DANIEL BRYAN. What was meant to be a poster ended up on the cutting-room floor thanks to Daniel's rapid beard/hair growth.

5 *Hempstead, NY; 6/4/13 Outtake*

WILLIAM REGAL. Both *WWE Mag* and The Master Villain celebrated a 30-year anniversary in 2013. And both look better than ever.

6 *New Orleans, LA; 2/17/13*

KAITLYN. We can't tell you how many times we asked Kaitlyn to kick for this particular pic. Enough that she was ready to kick us all off set.

7 *New Orleans, LA; 2/17/13*

BIG E LANGSTON. We're not so sure why he was so surprised to be receiving this award especially after what he did to the lady in the photo that's right next to him.

8 *New Orleans, LA; 2/17/13*

AJ LEE. When we asked AJ which classic Superstar she wanted to embody as "Diva of the Month," she answered immediately. Plaid is rad!

9 *New Orleans, LA; 2/17/13 Outtake*

ANTONIO CESARO. This man sure likes to show off his strength, but it's his sense of humor that won us over. Consider T-Rex neutralized!

10 *Lafayette, LA; 2/18/13*

PAUL HEYMAN. We were a bit suspicious at first, but as soon as he walked on set we instantly became "Paul Heyman Guys/Gals."

11 *Lafayette, LA; 2/18/13*

3MB. The idea behind this one was an homage to the band Stillwater from the film *Almost Famous*. Heath, Drew and Jinder almost nailed it.

12 *Tulsa, OK; 5/13/13*

RYBACK. For our 2013 "Power Issue" there was only one Superstar who made sense for the cover. And here's a look at how we did it.

13 *Tulsa, OK; 5/13/13*

KOFI KINGSTON. He is the "Iron Man" of *WWE Mag* photo shoots. Everytime we go backstage he's on our list. Best streak since 'Taker's.

14 *Pittsburgh, PA; 10/7/13*

ALICIA FOX. No annual "outtakes" feature would be complete without the Foxy one. She's always cracking herself (and us) up on set.

INSIDER

+ THE CLOSEST YOU'LL GET TO THE RING WITHOUT BEING BETWEEN THE ROPES

Mistake Of The Year Nominee

Heyman Opens Mouth, Makes Enemy; Also—Sky Blue And Grass Green.

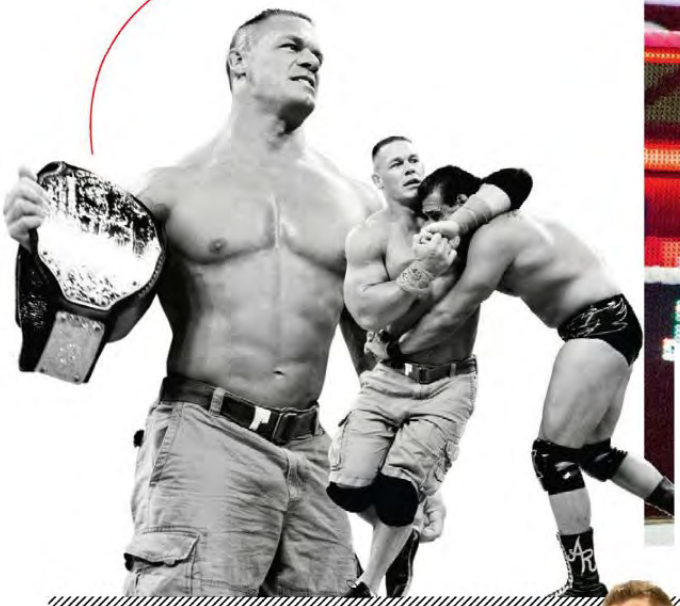
Paul Heyman needs to learn—you catch more flies with honey than vinegar. His attempt to downplay CM Punk's victory over Big E Langston on the 10/18/13 edition of *SmackDown* rubbed Langston the wrong way. So when Ryback and Curtis Axel cornered Punk, Big E came to his aid. After sending the Heyman guys back-peddling, Big E screamed at his critic, "Who's the rookie now?!" For a "mastermind," Heyman doesn't know not to pick on the guy who can bench-press more than double Curtis Axel's weight. ***10/18, SmackDown***

BY **JEFF LABOON**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **CRAIG AMBROSIO**

Return Of The Year Nominee

The Champ Brings His Considerable Talents To South Beach

No one could've expected John Cena would return to action only 68 days after elbow surgery. He powered through rehab and came to Miami stronger than ever, though. He countered Alberto Del Rio's Cross Armbreaker by lifting ADR off the ground and above his head, before dropping him with an AA en route to clinching his 14th World Title and reigniting questions about whether he's actually a cyborg. ***10/27, Hell In A Cell***



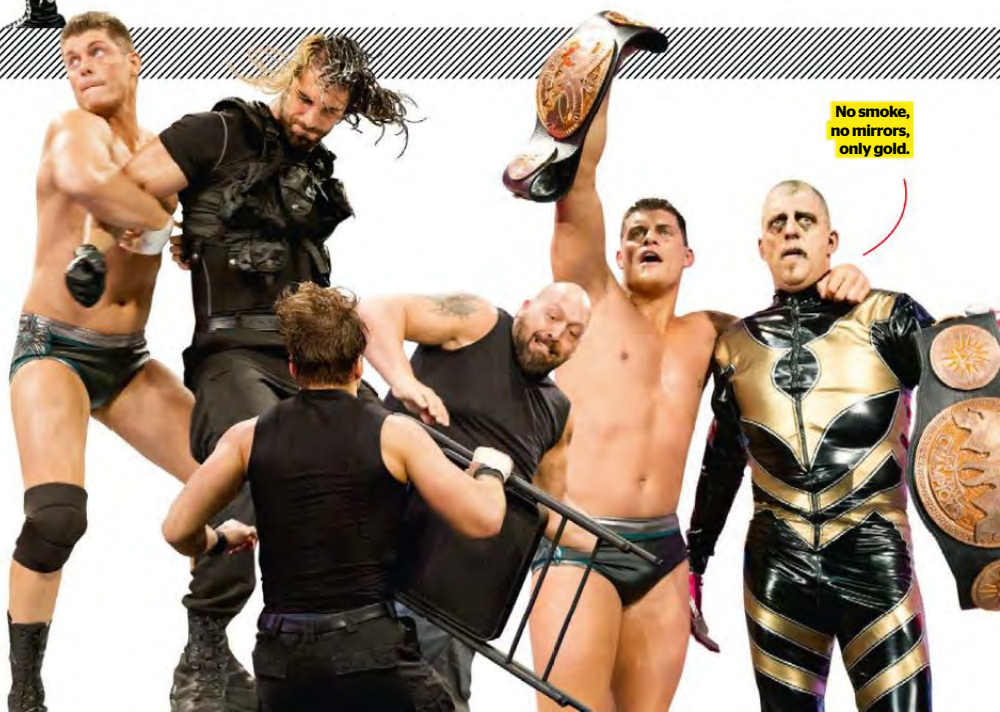
"I told everybody I'm back and I'm ready, and I don't plan on letting this go any time soon."

JOHN CENA, regarding his grip of the World Heavyweight Championship; 10/28/13, *Raw*

Match Of The Year Nominee

Rhodes Brothers Start Golden Era

Brothers make the best teammates—they never judge your choice of makeup. After getting rehired at *WWE Battleground*, Cody Rhodes and his brother, Goldust, continued to create havoc for The Authority when they challenged The Shield for their WWE Tag Team Titles on the 10/14/13 edition of *Raw* in a back-and-forth bout. With momentum up for grabs, Dean Ambrose interfered, helping Roman Reigns spear The Bizarre One through the barricade. But before The Shield could capitalize, the recently fired Big Show barreled through the crowd and KO'd the trio, allowing Cody to score the decisive pinfall and win the title gold. ***10/14, Raw***



No smoke, no mirrors, only gold.

Life's guarantees: Death, taxes and Cena with gold.

"They were certainly the best at what they did, but not at what we do."

CODY RHODES, on ending The Shield's title reign in chaotic fashion; *10/28/13, WWE.com exclusive*

Stat Slam

Days between reigns for Goldust, who last held the World Tag Team Titles with Booker T before claiming gold with his brother in 2013.

3,934

Heartbreaker Of The Year Nominee

Nothing Sweet About This Chin Music

Shawn Michaels knows the "B+ player" critiques too well. But his former student Daniel Bryan seemed poised to shed that label and recapture the WWE Championship against Randy Orton. The guest ref—Michaels—Superkicked Bryan, allowing Orton to crawl for the pin. Wait until the parent-teacher conference for this one. ***10/27, Hell In A Cell***

"In this snakepit, you don't trust anyone—not me, not that soon-to-be wife of yours, no one."

SHAWN MICHAELS, giving a final lesson to former pupil Daniel Bryan; *10/28/13, Raw*

Who's the ignoramus now?

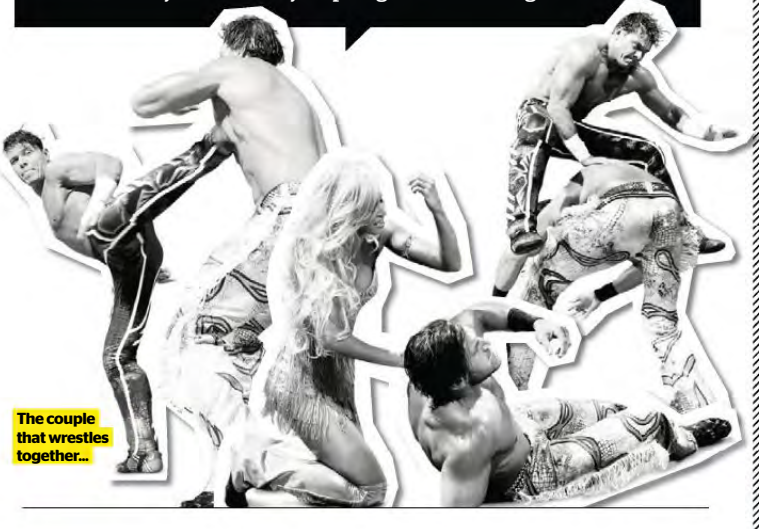
Fail Of The Year Nominee

Sandow Targets Top Dog, Ends Up Getting Bitten

Damien Sandow's eyes are bigger than his stomach, as he illustrated when he cashed in his MITB contract on 14-time World Champion John Cena. Sandow boldly proved he's a main-event player, but his clever attempt to re-injure Cena's elbow couldn't stop The Champ from overcoming Sandow's "You're Welcome" maneuver to hit the AA. On the bright side, at least Sandow isn't the first to unsuccessfully cash in. You're welcome. ***10/28, Raw***

Couple Of The Year Nominee

Tyson & Natalya Upstage The Fandangos!



The couple that wrestles together...

It seemed like Summer Rae and Fandango would become WWE's biggest power couple after she made her in-ring debut. But another pair waltzed into the WWE Universe's hearts first, as Tyson Kidd returned from a knee injury to defeat the dancing duo with his wife Natalya. You know the playground song: First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes a Sharpshooter in the baby carriage. ***11/4, Raw***

"You have been manipulative, and you have ruined lives. But...it is what's best for business."

KANE, offering his services to The Authority; *10/28/13, Raw*

Stat Slam!

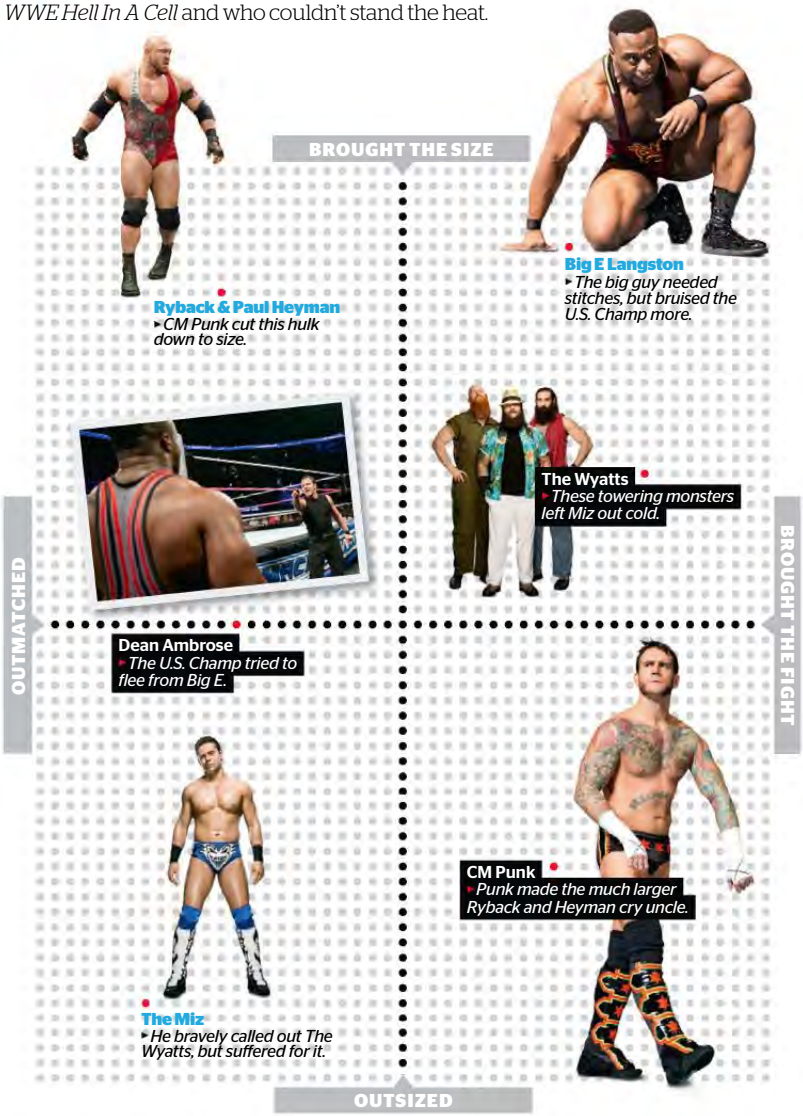
Days Damien Sandow held his MITB contract before using his World Title opportunity on John Cena.

106

The Hell In A Cell Matrix

Who Survived The Heat In Miami?

Mark Twain once said, "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog." That guy said a lot of things, but let's measure if he's right by gauging which rookies and former WWE Champions brought the fight at *WWE Hell In A Cell* and who couldn't stand the heat.



Tag Team Of The Year Nominee

The Wyatts Attack Bryan and Punk

Even *Grays Sports Almanac* couldn't have predicted The Wyatts's savage attacks on CM Punk and Daniel Bryan on the 10/28/13 edition of *Raw*. The terrifying trio left each Superstar in a heap—even crushing Bryan with a storage container. When it seemed like Punk was about to receive another triple-team beatdown the following week, though, Bryan rushed to his aid with a chair, sending The Wyatts back to their compound faster than Biff Tannen running from Marty McFly. ***11/4, Raw***

Stat Slam!

Pairs of "brothers" to hold the Tag Team Championships in WWE, including The Hardys, The Strongbows, The Wild Samoans and The Brothers of Destruction!

11

P36 WWE FAN ART OF THE MONTH CONTEST FOR January '14. NO PAYMENT OR ENTRY FEE REQUIRED. Void where prohibited. Open only to legal residents of the 50 United States (and D.C.), 18 and older. Online entries must be received between 12:01 am (ET) on 12/17/13 and 11:59 pm (ET) on 1/20/14 (the "Contest Period"). Go to **WWW.WWE.COM/MAGAZINE/** and create a user profile, then submit your entry by uploading artwork depicting WWE Superstars (the "Submission"). Submissions must be two dimensional (flat) and online entries must be in .jpg, .pdf, or .tif format and at least 300 dpi. To enter by mail, send your Submission, along with your name and other information required in the Official Rules, to: WWE Fan Art of the Month Contest for January '14, Publications, WWE, 1241 East Main St., Stamford, CT 06902. Mail-in entries must be postmarked during the Contest Period and received by WWE no later than 1/27/14. Limit 1 entry per person regardless of entry method. You must own all rights to your Submission, assign all such rights to WWE and acknowledge such assignment at time of entry. Entries will not be returned. You will not be paid for your Submission. Grand Prize: One (1) *WWE Battleground* DVD. Approximate retail value ("ARV") of Grand Prize: $30 USD Contest subject to complete Official Rules available at **WWW.WWE.COM** and by sending a SASE (VT residents may omit return postage) to: WWE Fan Art of the Month Contest for January '14 Rules Request, WWE, 1241 East Main St., Stamford, CT 06902. Sponsor: WWE, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902. © WWE, All rights reserved.

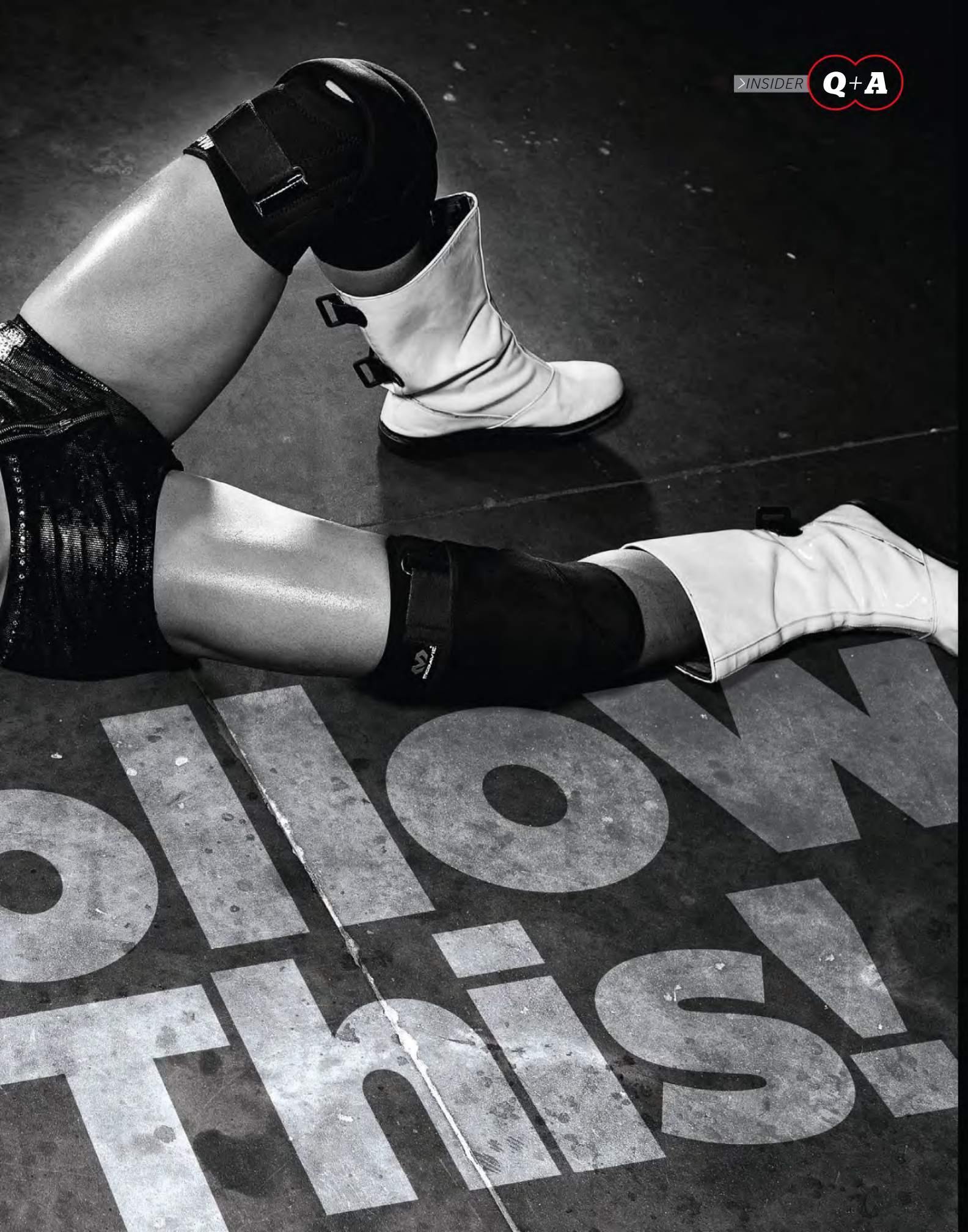
YOU GOT THE MIC WWE HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST — JAN. '14 EDITION. NO PAYMENT OR ENTRY FEE REQUIRED. Void where prohibited. Contest only open to legal residents of 50 United States, D.C. and Canada (excluding Quebec), who are at least 18 years old at the time of entry. To enter, either email a photo of your WWE-inspired Halloween Costume to to magazine@wwe.com (subject: Halloween Costume Contest), or mail the photo to "WWE Halloween Costume Contest – January '14 Edition, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902". All Submissions must include name, date of birth, telephone number, e-mail address (if any) and home address. E-mail entries must be received between 12:01 a.m. (ET) on 12/17/13 and 11:59 p.m. (ET) on 01/20/14. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by 01/21/14 and received by 01/27/14. You must own all rights to your submission, assign all such rights to WWE and acknowledge such assignment at time of entry. Submissions will not be returned. You will not be paid for your submission. Grand Prize Winner will receive one (1) Best WWE PPVS DVD and have his or her Submission published in an upcoming issue of WWE Magazine. Approximate retail value ("ARV") of Grand Prize: $30. Contest subject to complete Official Rules available at WWW.WWE.COM and by sending a SASE (VT residents may omit return postage) to: WWE Halloween Costume Contest - Jan. '14 Edition, WWE, 1241 East Main St., Stamford, CT 06902. Sponsor: WWE, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902. © WWE, All rights reserved.

HEATHER MCLAUGHLIN (11); ERIC JOHNSON (8); JOHN GIAMUNDO (7); RICH FREEDA (2); SCOTT BRINEGAR

PROMOTION
FRANCIA RAISA
MIKE 'THE MIZ' MIZANIN
WILL GREENBERG
Christmas
BOUNTY
AS SEEN ON ABC Family's countdown to 25 Days of Christmas
AVAILABLE ON BLU-RAY COMBO, DVD AND DIGITAL HD
Only at Walmart
STUDIOS
/OFFICIALWWESTUDIOS
@WWESTUDIOS
WWE, THE WWE LOGO AND THE MIZ ARE TRADEMARKS OF WWE. TM & © 2013 WWE STUDIOS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

If watching **Dolph Ziggler's** physical and emotional 2013 left you wrung out, imagine what it was like for him. But he bounced back—stronger, smarter and smarmier than ever. Here, The Show Off reflects on his year, and what its lessons will mean for him in 2014.

BY **MAX BAKKE**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MARIUS BUGGE**


ollow
This!

For you, 2013 was a year of dizzying highs and soul-crushing lows. What kind of effect on you does that sort of ride have?
On a good day, I'm a bitter, angry, chip-on-the-shoulder type of guy. So when someone tells me I just tore down that house at *Raw*, I say, "Yeah, but you know what? There was this one situation where I wasn't in the right place where I wanted to be." I was the World Champ, but I should be better. I'm constantly never satisfied with any situation, which is both good and bad because never being fully happy drives me to be better every day...but I don't enjoy the things that I do even when I do them great.

Take us back to the night you cashed in the MITB contract. Even a pessimist like yourself can't find fault with the way everything unfolded, can you?
The fact that I'm out there fresh against a guy who was beaten down, and the crowd wasn't sure who was going to win—that's a testament to me being as weak as I am on the show, but we still got the audience to think that I was going to get screwed over again. I loved it because it's about entertainment and the unexpected. I couldn't be prouder of that moment.

"FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE I FELT HELPLESS. I WAS SITTING AT HOME WITH HEADACHES THINKING I MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE TO COME BACK."

But just as you started to gain momentum, you had your first truly serious injury. What was that experience like?
For once in my life I felt helpless, because I couldn't control my fate. I was sitting at home for weeks with 24-hour headaches. And I started thinking I might never be able to come back, or if I did, what would happen to me in the ring. I've known people who came back from injuries, with all that hard work, and no matter what the situation, they're never quite the same.

Was there ever a moment when you thought, this isn't worth it?
No, once the pain started to decrease a little each day, when I came back, I would make the most of it. I never would have thought, "This is not worth it." This is a freak accident, they happen, and hopefully, I can be better because of it.

You're always hailed for your work ethic, both inside and outside the ring, and in media appearances and in the gym. Has that ever been a challenge for you?
For a while it was. No matter how good you are, sometimes you don't even get a chance, so you do every extra thing you can. I go to improv classes to stay sharp on the mic and in the ring, and being able to adjust to any situation. I've been in situations when people have either become injured or confused or something goes wrong in a match, which happens all the time and you have to make a quick judgment. It gives me a chance to show them my range. I live for pressure situations. It's a blast. I'm on Twitter because I'm not going to get a chance to talk on TV very often. People know John Cena, they know what he stands for. They just know me as a guy who has awesome matches.

You've said that one of the things holding you back is that you look too good getting beaten by other guys. How do you become someone who looks good in victory, too?
I wish I could be in some weird universe in which I could go against myself and see how good I could get beat up by myself. That would be the ultimate match for me. There's some people in this world who are great talkers, and they lack in some other areas. There are some people who look like bodybuilders and people who make their opponents look great and lack in other areas. If this were a video game, I'd be 99s and 100s in every single category, except for height, I guess. I'd be like an 80.

What are your thoughts on a show like E!'s smash-hit reality program, *Total Divas*? Would you ever want to be a castmember on something like that?
A show like *Total Divas* is great. The key, in this day and age, when there are more than just four channels, is to hit crossover demographics. The people who watch that channel get a reality show, but also a little sneak peek into the Superstars' lives at home. My favorite thing is to watch it and Tweet little jokes along with it.

But what about a reality show starring The Show Off himself, Dolph Ziggler?
I don't know. It's scary always having them around, I just feel like you don't have a minute to yourself. And I see people crying down there all the time. I would love to be involved in some way because it's a cool show, and it's fun. And you get to see the behind-the-scenes Superstars' characters. I wouldn't want to be a full-time character just because I wouldn't have a free moment to myself.

You work really hard at entertaining others, but what makes you laugh?
Anything smart, witty and quick. I crave to sit at a table with smart people and be able to go back and forth. I once had a girlfriend who was a comedian, and she could go back-and-forth with me, toe-to-toe, every single time we talked, texted—you name it. Nothing is more of a turn-on.

Going forward, what's going to be the biggest challenge for you in 2014?
The biggest challenge for me is going to be finding a way to not be stale, when there's floods of new guys coming in every single day, wanting your spot and challenging you for it, and they're new, so it's something fresh, it's something different so it makes me step up my game. If you can imagine me stepping it up anymore.

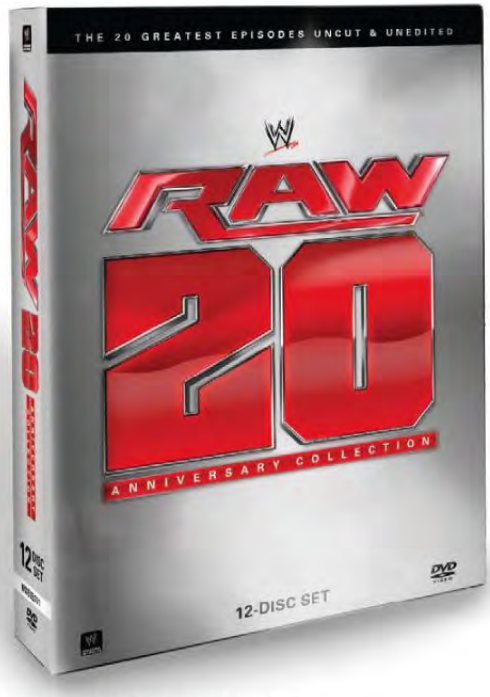
Are you threatened by what you see from the younger Superstars on the main roster or working down at *NXT*?
Absolutely not—unlike some others, I welcome competition. I wish someone would go on before me and make me follow him or her. How motivating would that be!? No one does that, and if someone showed up and did it, I would just be forced to be that much better.

Finally, as a veteran now, do you feel an obligation to teach those younger guys about "stealing the show" and being a Superstar?
I don't feel like I have to, but as someone who wasn't picked to be a leader, when I see something from someone else, whether it's a rookie or someone who's been in this business for 20 years, I congratulate them on it. When I see a problem, I'm not afraid to go tell them about it, either. I welcome the competition.

GROOMING BY ERI VINCENT FOR WILHELMINA

FINALLY THERE'S A BETTER WAY...

THE 20 GREATEST EPISODES UNCUT & UNEDITED IN ONE COLLECTION



12-DISC DVD SET AVAILABLE NOW

BEST BUY f.y.e. K kmart

GET FREE PREVIEWS AND ALL THE LATEST WWE DVD AND BLU-RAY INFORMATION AT *WWW.DVD.WWE.COM*

BEFORE THE BELL

What's on the minds of the Superstars and Divas during those private moments as they prepare for in-ring combat?

THIS MONTH

THE BELLAS

Brie: "Nikki and I are really big into meditation and prayer. Many people like to listen to loud music and get pumped up, but it's actually funny because Nikki and I like quietness. We like to really collect our thoughts, take those deep breaths, and really just connect with ourselves."

Nikki: "Not too many people do as much meditation before their match, and some people want to get fired up, scream and yell, but Brie and I want to be in a calm zone. I need that quiet space. I need to get my head in the right area."

Brie: "Because she's my sister, I know I'll get honest feedback. Nikki knows how to calm me down if I'm overly nervous, and she can tell when I'm distracted. We've been together for 29 years: She knows what to say if I look distracted to get me back into the mode. She knows how to keep me on track. And one thing we do when we're in Gorilla is we'll kiss each other on the cheek and slap each other's butts. Then we'll say, 'We're going to do amazing out there.' "

Nikki: "And you don't see a lot of people slapping each other's butts before going out to the ring."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **HEATHER McLAUGHLIN**

2 FREE POSTERS INSIDE!

THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

THE MOST AMAZING MATCHES, MOMENTS AND FACTS!

COLLECTOR'S EDITION
OFFICIAL 2013 ALBUM
WWE SIGNATURE SERIES

WWE.COM

USA $9.99
PRINTED IN U.S.A.
RETAILER PLEASE DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 4, 2014

JOHN CENA • DANIEL BRYAN • THE ROCK • TRIPLE H • BROCK LESNAR • CM PUNK

ON SALE NOW!

A MUST-HAVE FOR ANY WWE FAN'S COLLECTION!

@WWEAJLee
BLACK WIDOW
AJ LEE
DIVA OF THE YEAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CRAIG AMBROSIO, DIGITAL IMAGING BY ERIC HENTZ

ALL WWE PROGRAMMING, TALENT NAMES, IMAGES, LIKENESSES, SLOGANS, WRESTLING MOVES, TRADEMARKS, LOGOS AND COPYRIGHTS ARE THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF WWE AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES. ALL OTHER TRADEMARKS, LOGOS AND COPYRIGHTS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE OWNERS. ©2013 WWE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY AND NEVER MISS AN ISSUE

A MUST-HAVE FOR THE WWE UNIVERSE!

GO RINGSIDE, BACKSTAGE & INSIDE THE PRIVATE LIVES OF YOUR FAVORITE SUPERSTARS & DIVAS WITH *WWE MAGAZINE* & THE *WWE MAGAZINE* APP, AN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE THAT DELIVERS EXCLUSIVE WWE SUPERSTAR INTERVIEWS, STUNNING HI-RES PHOTOS, & ENTERTAINING QUIZZES AND GAMES FOR THE WWE UNIVERSE. NOW AVAILABLE ON YOUR FAVORITE TABLETS.

MAGAZINE.WWE.COM

© 2013 WWE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.